



CHINA MAIL

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"Baltic Frozen As Far As The Eye Can See"

ARCTIC WEATHER IN EUROPE

RUMANIA READY FOR STORM

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

Bucharest, To-day.
Rumania is completing the construction of a strongly fortified line covering her frontiers, chiefly in the west (opposite Hungary) and in the north (facing Soviet Russia), well-informed quarters declare.

It is reported that King Carol ordered construction of the fortified line immediately after the Munich Agreement, and tens of thousands of workers have since been engaged in the task.

A gigantic ditch, 135 feet wide, has been dug out all along the northern frontier and can be flooded in an hour.

Powerful Line

Behind this moat is a powerful line of machinegun nests and anti-tank barriers to protect Rumania's frontiers.

Because of their high cost, concrete defence works are used only in highly strategic places, notably for protection of the mountain passes in the Carpathian range.—Havas.

MOSCOW DISAVOWAL

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

Moscow, To-day.
The Tass agency brands as "sheer invention" reports appearing in the "Frankfurter Zeitung" asserting that the Soviet in the negotiations with Finland before the outbreak of war, claimed the annexation of the Petsamo region.

The official Soviet mouthpiece declares that such a demand was never voiced by the Soviet.—Havas.

WEATHER FORECAST:—North, part winds, from N.W.

SCENES not duplicated for many years have followed the descent of Arctic cold upon Northern Europe. It is possible to-day, for instance, to walk from Denmark to Sweden, as The Sound is frozen over from coast to coast.

Copenhagen harbour is completely frozen in and the Baltic is one great sheet of ice for as far as the eye can see from the Danish coast.

Similar reports come from all points along the shores of the Baltic.

So intense is the cold in Estonia that children have been forbidden to go to school. Temperatures in the country are lower than have ever previously been recorded.

A greater part of Germany is under a heavy blanket of snow and the coal shortage in Berlin is causing acute distress among the poorer classes.

Germany's waterborne transport is completely paralysed, and similar conditions prevail throughout the greater part of the length of the Danube, throughout Holland and Belgium.

The river Maas in Holland is reported to be frozen almost solid.—Reuter.

And Nazis Are To Cut Coal Ration

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

Brussels, To-day.
While bitter cold grips the whole of Europe, Germany is taking new measures to limit coal consumption for the civilian population.

The official Nazi Gazette, published in Berlin yesterday contains a decree entrusting minor officials of the Nazi party with control and restriction of the supply of hot water in apartment houses.

In certain cities hot water will be available only two days a week.—Havas.

Soviet Air Force Kept On Ground

Helsinki, To-day.
The bitter weather has brought a halt to Soviet air attack, because few of their planes are equipped with any device to prevent ice from forming on the wings.

Little activity took place in land operations for the same reason, though the Finnish communiqué speaks of patrols harassing the Soviet troops in the region north of Lake Ladoga.—Reuter.

Russia's Coldest Since Death Of Lenin

Moscow, To-day.
Inhabitants state that this is the coldest winter since Lenin died in 1924.

The thermometer has fallen a further four degrees, registering

London, To-day.

79 degrees of frost.

Hospitals are remaining open night and day to attend cases of frost-bite. Many lorries and private cars are frozen up on the roads.

The Underground is packed with people seeking relief from the bitterly cold winds.—Reuter.

88 DEGREES OF FROST

Oslo, To-day.

The temperature at Telnesse, on the Norwegian-Swedish frontier, yesterday defied the mercury in the thermometer, which failed to register.

The alcohol thermometer showed 88 degrees of frost.—Reuter.

OPERATIONS FROZEN

Paris, To-day.

Both land and air activity on the western front has been reduced and practically suspended as the result of the bitter cold and further heavy storms during the night.—Reuter.

OMINOUS GERMAN MOVES IN SLOVAKIA

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

Budapest, To-day.

Reliable information from Slovakia indicates that the German army is attempting to strengthen its grip on the country.

The Slovak authorities recently received a German demand that German officers be appointed to command several important military garrisons.

The city of Presov, which is an important railway centre, has been placed under the authority of a member of the German General Staff.

Frontier Activity

Feverish activity is going on the Hungarian and Ruthenian frontiers, where German engineers are improving and opening new roads.

Many new troops are expected to arrive soon, and all hotels have been commandeered for German officers, who are expected to arrive on February 1.—Havas.



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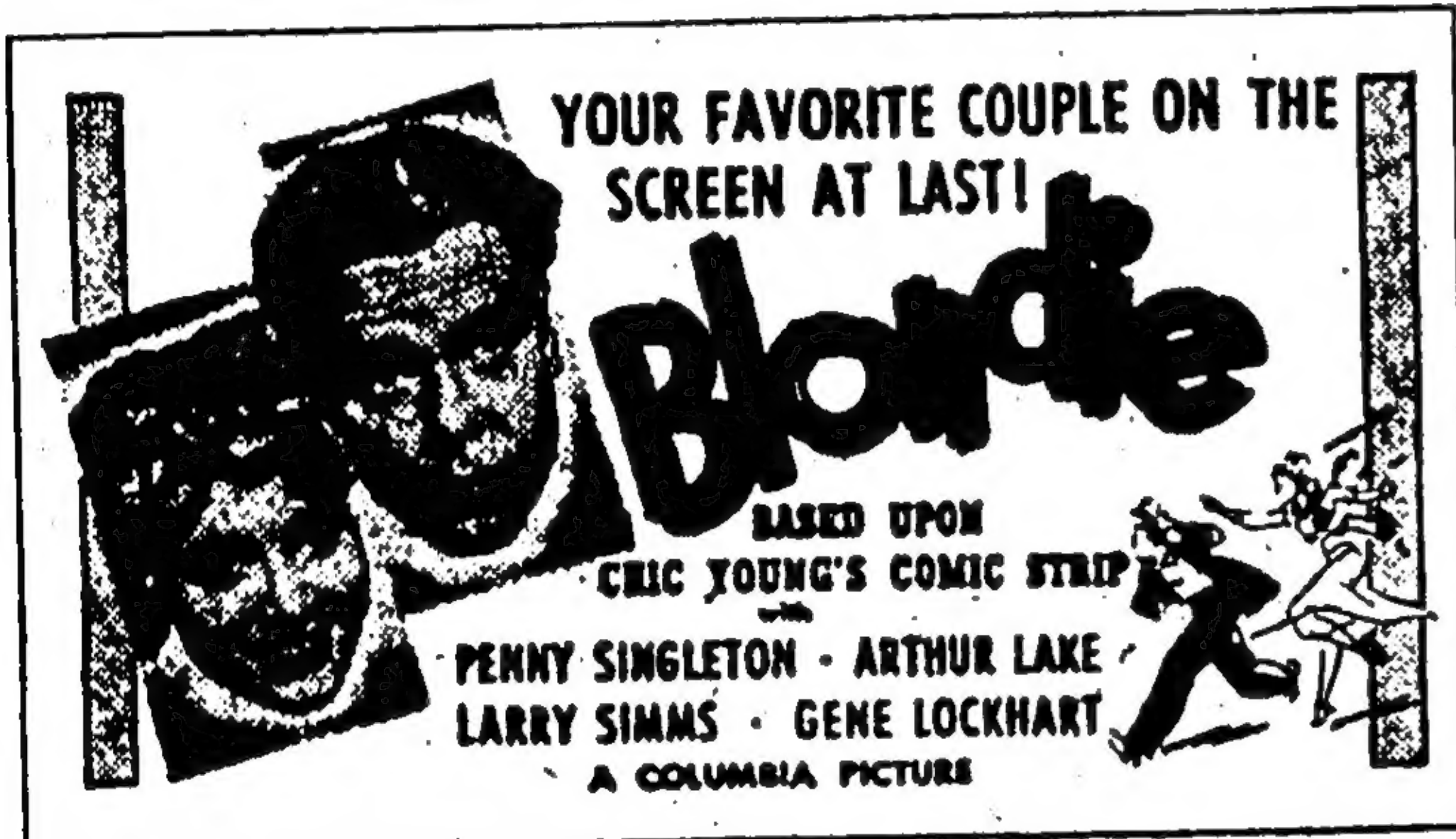
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TO-MORROW

"DRAMATIC SCHOOL"

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AMUSING GERMAN DIATRIBE ON "NEUTRALITY" ZONE

London, To-day.

THE GERMAN PRESS is now busily attacking Britain's reply to the American republics on the Graf Spee battle and the suggested "safety zone."

The "Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung," for instance, says that "the British reply proves that the British conception of neutrality is different from that of all other countries!"

A fitting reply to this sort of stuff is given by the "New York Times," which says that the British reply is courteous but firm in its insistence that Britain cannot forego her legitimate rights.

British diplomacy has pointed a practical finger at the weakness of the American republics' plan which has already been pointed out by American observers, continues the paper. The most glaring of all is their attempt to claim as right something for which there is no ground in international law.

PLAN FOR CONSENT

Their best hope, says the "New York Times," is to present the "safety zone"

plan as a matter for consent rather than as a right which does not exist.

The paper suggests that the American republics should find out from Germany how far she may be willing to restrict her war operations in these waters.—Reuter.

Mr. Cordell Hull's Comment

Washington, To-day.

The Secretary of State, Mr. Cordell Hull, said yesterday that he preferred to examine all phases of the British reply regarding the "safety zone" before making a statement on the United States' position.

Mr. Hull added he had heard nothing from Germany and France regarding the "safety zone."—Reuter.

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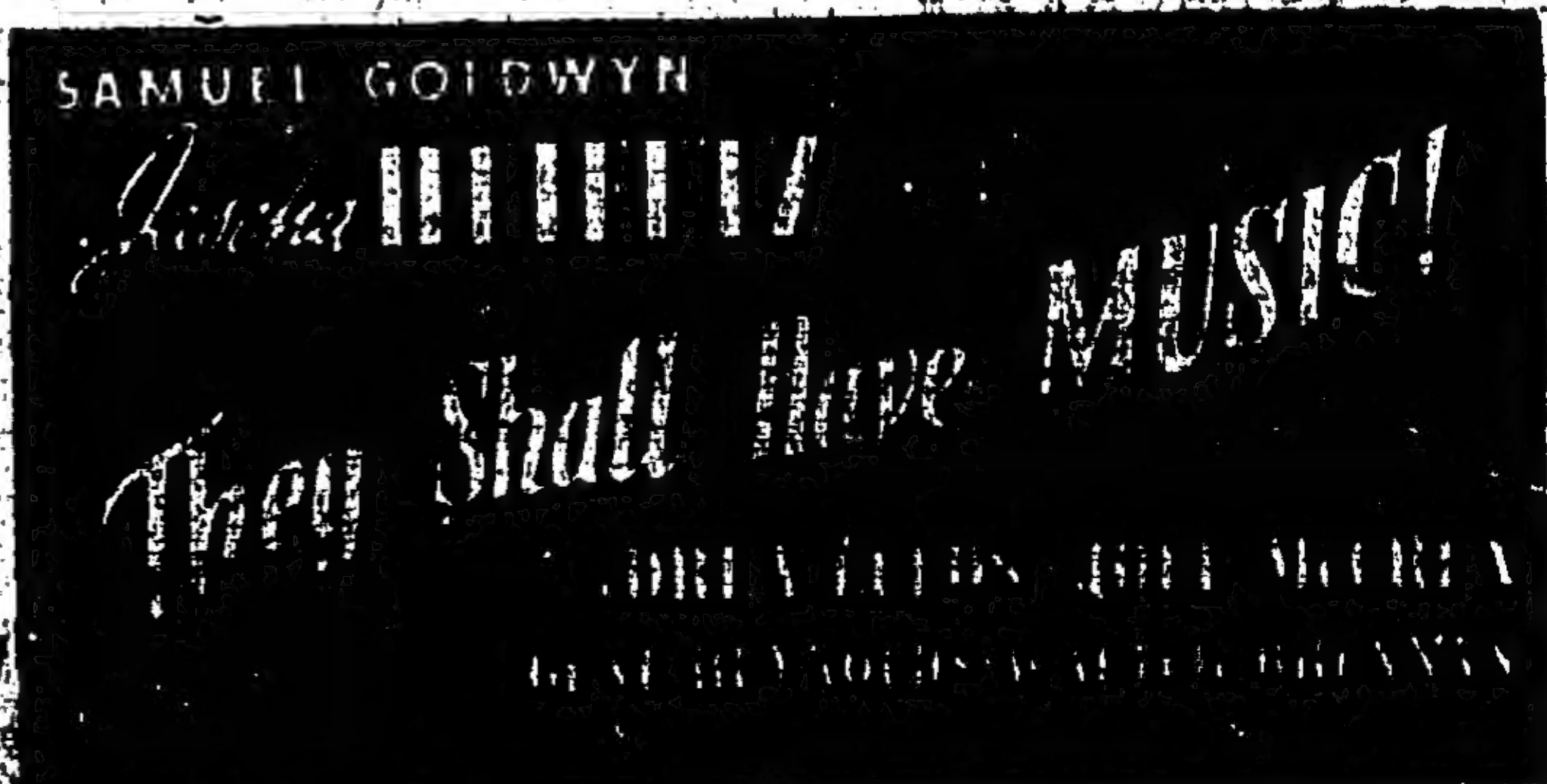
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YEN HSI-SHAN ARMIES INVOLVED IN OPEN CLASH

Shanghai, To-day.

OPEN WARFARE inside the ranks of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's troops has broken out in south Shansi, travellers reaching here from the province informed Reuter to-day.

Approximately 250,000 men from two separate armies are involved, these travellers declare, and they are now said to be engaged in fighting each other instead of jointly fighting the Japanese, as ordered by General Chiang Kai-shek.

Apparently the trouble originally arose over friction between two armies commanded by Marshal Yen Hsi-hsan, commonly known as his "old" army and his "new" army.

The "old" army is the army which retreated with him before the Japanese advance into Shansi over two years ago.

The "new" army is the army recruited since by Marshal Yen.

This new army, which is now about 60,000 strong, did not live up to Marshal Yen's expectations of loyalty, and for some time, it is stated, has been noticeably more in sympathy with the Communist 8th Route Army group than with Marshal Yen Hsi-shan himself, whom it regards as something of the old-fashioned war lord type.

ALL THE HARD WORK

Things came to a head the other day, it is asserted, when Marshal Yen tried to put the Central Government's orders for this year's "winter campaign" into effect by allotting the "new" army all the hard work (to get them out of the way,) and keeping his "old" army, numbering some 200,000 men, in the background.

The dispute that ensued rapidly developed into open warfare between the old and new armies, it is stated.

This warfare, although 250,000 men are involved and large-scale military operations are said to be in progress, is still in the nature of a localised revolt, it is stated and the Central Government is understood to be making feverish efforts to keep the matter localised and effect a peaceful settlement.

MAY GET OUT OF HAND

Should such a settlement not be reached speedily, however, there is a serious threat that the revolt may get out of hand and develop into a large-scale civil war within the ranks of General Chiang Kai-shek's forces, it is stated, since the 8th Route Army may at any moment go to the assistance of their friends in Marshal Yen Hsi-shan's new army.

If this should happen and if Marshal Yen's old army should then find itself in difficulties (as is probable in such an eventuality), Central Government troops would, it is declared, have to be sent to aid the old army—which would mean open warfare between the Central Government troops and the Communist 8th Route Army. — Reuter.

NO REQUEST FOR GUARANTEE REFUSED

London, To-day.

Asked in the House of Commons yesterday what countries, since the end of September, 1938, had asked Britain to guarantee them against aggression and had been refused, Mr. Chamberlain replied:—

"None."—Reuter.

CANADA'S BIG EFFORT

London, To-day.

The spontaneity and strength of Canada's war effort is strikingly demonstrated in two recent advices from Ottawa.

The Canada Red Cross has already collected about £900,000.

The Department of National Defence has announced that 8,500 doctors have volunteered to place their services at the disposal of the defence authorities for medical work of all kinds. — British Wireless.

JANUARY SESSIONS OPENED

The January Criminal Sessions opened this morning and the Chief Justice, Sir Atholl MacGregor, dealt with a number of deportee cases.

Wong Kan was sentenced to 18 months' hard labour. He had been found in the Colony five times while still under a banishment order.

Chan Sang was sentenced to 12 months' and Pan Tak and Li Ling to two years' hard labour. All had been banished for life.

men troops would, it is declared, to be sent to aid the old army—which would mean open warfare between the Central Government troops and the Communist 8th Route Army.—Reuter.

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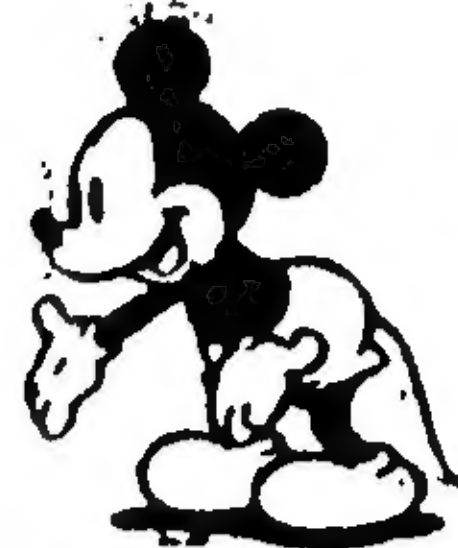
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* TO-MORROW *

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With Greer Garson — An MGM Picture

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Robert Donat * Greer Garson

MGM Picture in "GOOD-BYE, MR. CHIPS"

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* THE SEVEN
DWARFS

All in marvelous Multiplane Technicolor

EMBARGO FORECAST

U.S. Senate And Relations With Japan

ISSUE TO BE TAKEN UP AT END OF JANUARY

Washington, To-day.

SENATOR KEY PITTMAN stated yesterday that the Senate foreign relations committee will take up the whole question of Japanese-American relations at its first meeting on January 31.

The Secretary of State, Mr. Cordell Hull, will probably be asked to report on the progress of the negotiations on a possible new trade treaty.

Two proposals to place an embargo on exports to Japan, as well as a resolution to invoke the neutrality Act in connection with the Sino-Japanese war, are also before the committee.

Senator Gillette, who on Monday introduced a resolution calling on Congress to set in motion the machinery for operating the Neutrality Act in the Far East conflict, predicted to a reporter yesterday that the committee would approve legislation restricting exports to Japan.—Reuter.

SMALL PUBLIC INTEREST

Washington, To-day.

Reports from Tokyo, indicating that America's attitude towards the trade talks with Japan and other pending problems might force Japan to seek a rapprochement with Moscow, are doing nothing to disturb Washington's calm concerning the pending abrogation of the trade treaty.

The matter is arousing only very small public interest, and attention generally is now being focussed on European affairs, especially the problem of aiding the Finns.—Reuter.

TO PROPOSE AN EMBARGO

[SPECIAL TO "THE CHINA MAIL"]

Washington, To-day.

Senator Key Pittman yesterday told the press that he is tabling a Bill proposing an embargo on Japanese goods before the expiration of the commercial treaty on January 26.

He added that after the expiration of the treaty he would study the situation anew in order to determine whether under present conditions an embargo would be favourable to American interests.—Havas.

FINNISH AIR HEROICS

HELSINKI, TO-DAY.

TYPICAL OF THE HEROISM OF FINNISH AIRMEN FIGHTING THE SOVIET RAIDERS AGAINST LONG ODDS IS ONE PILOT, WHO EACH MORNING TOOK HIS PLANE UP, CIRCLED AROUND, AND THEN CAME DOWN BEFORE SETTING OFF ON HIS RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHT.

"Every day," he explained, "my machine gets shot to pieces, and every night the mechanics have to put it together again."

"Every morning, therefore, I go up and see if it still works. If it does, I can go off and fight the Russians!"

Since then, the pilot has been killed and his patched-up machine destroyed.—Reuter.

Reds Aim At Anything

Helsinki, To-day.

It is now becoming clear that the Soviet air raids on Finland are aimed at anything in sight, even private individuals miles from any fighting front. In future, therefore, the Finns will not issue the names of towns that are bombed.—Reuter.

U.S. SENDING OBSERVERS TO FINLAND

Washington, To-day.

The United States Army is sending two officers to Helsinki, one from Riga and one from Washington, to serve as military observers on land and air developments in the war with Russia.—Reuter.

ALLIED MUNITIONS DISCUSSION

London, To-day.

The French Minister of Armaments has arrived in London for important discussions with Mr. Leslie Burgin, Minister of Supply.—Reuter.

CHANCELLOR TO REPAY 1940-44 LOAN: CONVERSION OFFER

London, To-day.

Referring in the House of Commons to the proposal to take the earliest opportunity to repay the 1940-44 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan, Sir John Simon, Chancellor of the Exchequer, declared that the rate of interest on the loan was high, and formal notice of repayment of the loan was being given in last night's London Gazette.

Holders would be offered as a cash alternative conversion into a new loan carrying two per cent. and repayable at par on July 1, 1945, with the Treasury reserving the right to redeem at par, wholly or in part, after July 1, 1943.

The 4½ per cent. loan would receive £100 in the new loan for every £100 converted.

Sir John Simon appealed to investors not to opt for repayment except for the purpose of re-lending the money to the Government.

A White Paper was issued at the conclusion of the Chancellor's statement, explaining a Bill dealing with the powers of the Treasury which will be passed through all stages to-day.

AUTOMATIC CONVERSION

Necessity for the Bill arises from the fact that it is proposed to regard any holder of the 4½ per cent. loan who has not applied for repayment at a certain date, or for conversion, as having accepted the offer to convert his holding.

It is estimated that the conversion will save approximately £8,000,000 to £9,000,000 a year in interest.—Reuter.

CHINESE CLAIM FURTHER SUCCESS

Shiuhing, To-day.

Nganchanngau, on the Canton-Hankow Railway 33 miles north of Canton, has been recaptured by Chinese forces.

The Kwangtung Provincial Government has issued an order commending Mr. Choi Hei, magistrate of Tsungta, whose militia inflicted a heavy blow upon the Japanese at Shulmeitung.—Central News.

Mr. Woolley, residing at room No. 205, Metropole Hotel, has reported the theft from his room yesterday of £13 in money, a birth certificate, and a fixed deposit receipt for £2,100 from the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank.

ADMIRAL YARNELL'S APPEAL

[SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL"]

New York, To-day.

Admiral H. E. Yarnell, former Commander-in-Chief of the U. S. Asiatic Fleet, and newly appointed honorary vice-chairman of the "Committee for non-Participation in Japanese Aggression," yesterday launched an appeal for support from the American people to stop the flow of war materials from America to Japan.—Havas.

TRIAL FOR BROWDER

[SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL"]

New York, To-day.

The trial of Earl Browder, secretary of the Communist Party in America, started last night.

He is accused of travelling on a forged American passport.—Havas.

DONATION TO D.G.S. BUILDING FUND

Miss Violet Capell informs us that the net proceeds from her recent Dancing Display held at the King's Theatre amounted to \$839.50. Cheques for \$100 each have been sent to the International Medical Relief and British War Organisation Funds, the balance of \$839.50 going towards the Diocesan Girls' School Building Fund.

CONTROL OF SEAS: U.S. THESIS

Washington, To-day.

The United States should have a swarm of destroyers "to control the seas" in the event of war, declared Rear-Admiral S. M. Robinson, Chief of Naval Engineering, testifying before the naval affairs committee of the House of Representatives yesterday.

Admiral Robinson was defending the programme for building destroyers against the criticism of Mr. Carl Vinson, who said that perhaps the destroyer figures in the Naval Expansion Bill were too large.

Admiral Robinson added: "Our situation is much like that of England in regard to control of the seas. A nation like Germany, at the outbreak of war, must surrender control."—Reuter.

D.B.S. THEFT CHARGES

The frequent thefts from the Diocesan Boys' School had a sequel this morning before Mr. E. Himsforth when three youths were convicted.

Accused, Ho Loi, 19, Chan Yuk-sang, 24, Choi Ting-chi, 19, and Kwong Fuk-cheung, 19, were jointly charged with stealing clothing from the School dormitory. They were found in possession of 38 pawn tickets relating to the stolen clothing.

First accused sentenced to five months, second to seven and third to three months' hard labour. Fourth accused, who pleaded not guilty to all charges, was discharged.

Det-Sgt. W. G. Morrison stated that he arrested the four in a hut on the hillside above Waterloo Road yesterday.

TOKYO DIET POSTPONED

Tokyo, To-day.

In deference to the Government's desire, a conference of all parties yesterday decided to adjourn the re-assembly of the Lower House for a further 10 days.

Originally scheduled to meet on January 22 after the New Year recess, the House will now not meet until January 31.

The Government wants more time to prepare its budget and other bills.—Reuter.

ONE OF THE HUNDREDS CAUGHT

A woman, Chan Yuet, was cautioned by Mr. H. G. Sheldon, K.C., this morning, when charged with trespassing on a Government plantation in Stubbs Road.

Mr. K. A. Bidmead, A.S.P., saw defendant pulling up some shrubs at about 5.30 p.m. yesterday.

WEATHER REPORT

The Royal Observatory reports that the anticyclone now covers China and the neighbouring seas, pressure remaining highest to the north of Shanghai; the depression is no longer indicated.

Four further Kowloon smallpox cases, two typhoid cases, two diphtheria, two meningitis and 22 tuberculous cases were notified to the Medical Department yesterday.

Nazis Hermetically Sealing Border With Holland TO COVER ARMY'S ACTIVITIES

AMSTERDAM, TO-DAY.
WHILE ARCTIC CONDITIONS PREVAIL ON THE GERMAN FRONTIER, WITH SNOWDRIFTS AND FROZEN RIVERS, THE GERMANS ARE BUSY HERMETICALLY SEALING THE FRONTIER AND ARE ERECTING A TREMENDOUS BARBED-WIRE BARRIER.

It appears that persons wishing to enter or leave Germany will only be allowed to do so at certain restricted points with great difficulty.

In some places the high barrier is being electrified.

The Germans are following the frontier line with an accuracy which is causing great inconvenience to local residents.

Thus in one place the barrier is being taken through a hotel garden and the hamlet of Smorenhek has been cut off from all communications.

The wire netting at Dinzperlo has been erected down the middle of a street which is half German and half Dutch.

Prying Eyes

It is believed the measures are directed chiefly against spies and saboteurs.

With troop concentrations and the

construction of extensions of the Siegfried Line, the Germans are anxious to keep many things from prying eyes. — Reuter.

"QUIET DAY"

Paris, To-day.

Last night's French war communique stated there was a quiet day on the whole.

There was activity by our patrols, it adds. — Reuter.

MOSCOW ATTACKS ON ITALY

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

Venice, To-day.

The newspaper "Gazzettino" yesterday referred to violent anti-Italian radio outbursts from Moscow in which Italy was referred to as "world enemy number one which has fostered intrigues in the whole world."

The journal emphasises that the fight against Bolshevism is the very foundation of Fascist policy. — Havas.

CRYPTIC FASCIST WARNING IN ROME

ROME, TO-DAY.

A WARNING THAT ITALY MIGHT "FIND IT NECESSARY TO TAKE UP ARMS AT ANY MOMENT," WAS UTTERED BY SIGNOR MUTI, THE NEW SECRETARY OF THE FASCIST PARTY, IN A SPEECH TO PROVINCIAL FASCIST LEADERS YESTERDAY.

Signor Muti said: "Let no one sleep with the illusion that Italy's present attitude to the war will last for ever."

He affirmed the uncompromising attitude of Fascism towards Democracy, Bolshevism and bourgeois ideology.

The statement is regarded in diplomatic circles as emphasizing Italy's complete independence in foreign policy.

FASCIST IRRITATION

Considerable irritation has been caused in Fascist circles by frequent allusions in the British and French press since the recent Italian Cabinet reshuffle to a possible change in favour of the Allies of the Italian Government's attitude.

Signor Muti declared: "The recent changes in the Government and Party should not be interpreted as indicating any change whatever in the path followed by the revolution." — Reuter.

CHINESE CAPTURED IN FINLAND

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

Stockholm, To-day.

The Finns have captured three Chinese on the Karelian Front. The prisoners are Chinese communists who were enrolled while visiting Moscow.

The Russians told them that they must prove the sincerity of their Bolshevik feelings by fighting against Finland. — Havas.

RULES FOR AMERICANS

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

Washington, To-day.

The State Department announces that American citizens may travel on ships belonging to belligerents operating in Canada and adjacent waters. — Havas.

NAZI ATTACHE REVOLTED

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

Helsinki, To-day.

The German commercial attache, who was concurrently Helsinki correspondent of the Nazi news agency, resigned and joined the Finnish army because of the attitude of his country to the Finnish war.

The attache discovered that his despatches on the situation on the Finnish front were either suppressed or modified before being published in the German press.

After vain protests against this action of the German censor, he decided to break off with the Legation and the news agency.

He is now an artillery captain in the Finnish forces. — Havas.

B.E.F. LEAVE RESTORED

London, To-day.

Limited home leave for the B.E.F. has been resumed, cables Reuter's special correspondent in France.

Last night, from various railheads trains were carrying soldiers on the way home.

This fact indicates that the tension over the week-end, though not relaxed, at any rate has eased considerably. — Reuter.

OFF THE RECORD

By Ed Reed



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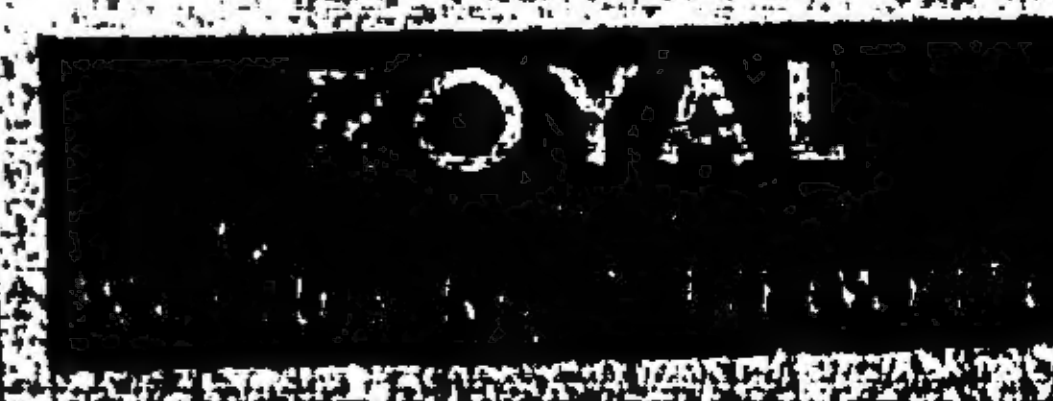


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PARLIAMENT DEBATES BUT NO-ONE IS ANY WISER ON REASON FOR CHANGE

LONDON, TO-DAY.

MONDAY'S SPEECHES BY MR. HORE-BELISHA AND MR. CHAMBERLAIN NATURALLY PROVIDED YESTERDAY'S BRITISH PRESS WITH AN ALMOST INEXHAUSTIBLE SUBJECT FOR COMMENT. ON ONE POINT ALL ARE UNANIMOUS — IN THEIR PRAISE FOR THE MODERATION AND DIGNITY OF MR. HORE-BELISHA'S SPEECH.

On the general question of whether the resignation was best in the interests of the steady prosecution of the war, there is also fairly general, though not entire, agreement. Such comment as there is to the effect that even now no-one is any the wiser on the reason for the change.

"The Times" says that Mr. Hore-Belisha was heard by his fellow members with approval and respect due to a difficult task well and patriotically performed. He said nothing which either he or the country might later regret and made short work of recent attempts to dramatise it in terms of sabotage and conspiracy.

The Prime Minister's assurances corroborated this, continues "The Times," and the two statements together dispose for all time all suggestions that some shift in policy was behind the various changes.

CLASH OF TEMPERAMENTS

The "Daily Telegraph" is of the opinion that what caused the changes was not so much a matter of policy as a clash of temperaments, while the "Manchester Guardian" observes that it really looks as though Mr. Hore-Belisha had been lacking in tact.

The "Manchester Guardian" has nothing but praise for Mr. Hore-Belisha's behaviour on Monday and applauds his expressed desire that the work which had been done and was being done should not be marred.

On the other hand, the "News Chronicle" feels that Mr. Chamberlain's speech and the good air of fellowship which prevailed gave it all an unreal atmosphere. What was the truth? The Prime Minister approached the point, he skirted the point, but he never did come to the point!

TOO GOOD FOR THE JOB!

All that he would say, continues the "News Chronicle," was that he became aware of difficulties arising

out of the very great qualities of Mr. Hore-Belisha. All that the country now knows, concludes the "News Chronicle," is that Mr. Hore-Belisha seems to have been too good for his job.—Reuter.

SWEDEN DEFINES ATTITUDE IN FINNISH CONFLICT

Stockholm, To-day.

THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES are still maintaining their attitude towards Finland, despite the Soviet diatribes.

In a foreign affairs debate, the Swedish Prime Minister, said that any attempt to violate Sweden's neutrality will be met by all the means at her disposal.

"Sweden will defend her independence and neutrality," declared Mr. Hansson.

"Any attempt to violate our neutrality will be met with all the means at our disposal.

"There can be no question of breaches of neutrality such as permission for the transport of belligerent troops through Sweden or the use of bases in our territory."

NO DESIRE TO BECOME PARTY TO CONFLICT

Mr. Hansson declared that in spite of the sympathy felt for Finland caution was necessary in order to avoid becoming a party to the conflict.

He added: "We don't need orders from abroad on our relations with Finland."

"We judge for ourselves how best to serve her cause and that of the Northern States."—Reuter.

MOSCOW AND ARITA STATEMENT

Moscow, To-day.

Official comment on the new Japanese Foreign Minister's statement of policy is not available, but in the Soviet version of his statement the remarks about the United States are given precedence.

His remark comparing the frontier agreement between Japan and Russia in importance with non-aggression pact, was not published in the Soviet press.—Reuter.

DISPOSAL OF CZECH LOAN FUNDS

London, To-day.

A first reading was given in the House of Commons yesterday to the Czechoslovakia (Financial Claims) Refugees Bill.

The Bill provides for the balance of the £6,000,000 loan made to Czechoslovakia by the British Government at the beginning of last year to be used to satisfy British financial claims in Czechoslovakia.

The balance available for this purpose is nearly £3,500,000.

The Bill also provides for the disposal of the unexpended balance of the £4,000,000 gift made to the Czechoslovakian Government for the settlement of refugees.—Reuter.

OLD MAN'S GIFT TO FINLAND

London, To-day.

An elderly man, who would not give his name, called yesterday on the Finnish Minister in London and gave him £5,000 in notes.

Many other gifts have been received, including a large number of small postal orders, sent anonymously.—Reuter.

SABOTAGE IN U.S. ?

ARMS PLANT BLOWN UP

Gibbstown (N.J.),
To-day.

The powder factory owned by the big munitions firm of Dupont de Nemours was wrecked yesterday when 6,000 pounds of nitro-glycerine exploded.

The explosion, which at first was believed to be an earthquake, shattered windows 15 miles away in the suburbs of Philadelphia.

According to first reports only two men are missing.

Later it was established that two were killed and one injured in the explosion.

Police and Federal Bureau of Investigation officials have started enquiries but withhold comment in regard to whether there is any possibility of sabotage. — Reuter.

FOOD CRISIS IN PEIPING EASIER

Peiping, To-day.

The food situation, which has been causing acute distress to the Chinese population of Peiping, and especially the poorer classes, is expected to be greatly relieved following an official announcement that fixed prices for cereals have been cancelled temporarily.

Arrangements have been made for the importation to North China of two million bags of flour before Chinese New Year.

Large quantities of flour were on sale locally yesterday and queues have been waiting outside the shops.

The situation had become so bad that the police were issuing food tickets to the poorer families.

Hoarding on the part of local dealers was one of the unfavourable factors aggravating the already acute food situation in Peiping. — Reuter.

LOSSES TO BE TAKEN ON BALANCE

London, To-day.

The loss of three British submarines must be viewed in the light of the predominant fact that half the U-boats with which Germany began the war are now destroyed.

The British loss is offset by the success of the convoy system, which has safely escorted 6,363 vessels and lost 12.

In the last war the convoy system reduced losses to 0.6 per cent. Present figures are only 0.2 per cent.

Individual triumphs and setbacks grip the popular imagination but the issue will be decided by the ceaseless flow of convoys to and from British ports.—Reuter.

SCARE REPORTS CORRECTIVE

London, To-day.

Following reports of a document issued to the British railways, warning them of intended German sabotage, the Ministry of Transport has issued a statement on the subject.

The statement declares: "As part of the general precautionary measures before the war, instructions were issued to various public authorities warning them of the risk of sabotage on the part of evilly disposed persons."

"These instructions were repeated at the time of the I.R.A. outrages."

"In certain quarters routine repetition of these instructions has recently taken place."—Reuter.

U.S. AIR MISSION TO STAY IN ARGENTINE

Buenos Aires, To-day.

The War Minister, General Marquez, has decided to prolong the stay of the United States Army Air Corps mission which has been instructing the Argentine air force since 1938, until June, 1941.—Reuter.

ARENDSKERK OUTRAGE

Captain Gives Full Details Of U-Boat Action

SUNK FOR HAVING GENERAL CARGO FOR S. AFRICA

Lisbon, To-day.

FIRST DETAILS TO BE RELEASED of the torpedoing of the Dutch liner Arendskerk were given by Captain C. H. J. Wyker, Master of the vessel, when, with survivors, he arrived in Lisbon yesterday.

Captain Wyker told Reuter how he was stopped by the U-boat's fire and ordered to send the ship's papers to the submarine.

The Arendskerk's First Officer, who took the papers in a boat, was told by the U-boat captain that the vessel must be sunk.

Reason given was that the cargo was contraband because it was consigned to an enemy country — South Africa.

The captain refused to listen to the Dutch officer's argument that the cargo was of a general nature and did not include contraband. The First Officer stayed on the submarine half an hour with the Nazi captain, who said he was very sorry to have to sink the ship.

Really A Pity!

The Chief Officer was deeply impressed by the kindness of the German captain, who said it really was a pity to sink such a fine ship.

Captain Wyker added that the Arendskerk was only a year old and was considered one of the best cargo-ships in the world.

The submarine herself towed back the boat with the First Officer, and gave the Dutch crew half an hour to leave.

After they had pulled away in three boats they saw the ship blown up. They were picked up two hours later.

After Ushant

Captain Wyker told Reuter he was bound for Capetown and Durban with a general cargo.

The submarine stopped them after they had passed Ushant.

At first he thought the submarine, which appeared as a small spot on the horizon, was a minesweeper.

As it came nearer he realised it was a submarine, and noticed lots of bullets dropping round the ship.

The submarine ordered the Arendskerk to halt, which she did, but the U-boat continued firing. — Reuter.

Lisbon, To-day.

The crew of the Arendskerk were landed by the Dutch liner Poelau Bras. — Reuter.

Sharp Newspaper Criticism

Amsterdam, To-day.

The "Telegraaf" in a sharp editorial declares: "We regard the whole plan of the German navy to isolate Britain as doomed to failure in advance."

The newspaper describes the sinking of the Dutch steamer Arendskerk as "a deed of senseless violence, bringing no glory to the German navy."

It says: "Germany has as little chance of stopping us from sailing the seas as she has of sweeping Britain off that element."

"The number of British ships which arrive at and leave British ports daily, shows the uselessness of the German sea warfare."

The journal asks: "Does Berlin really contemplate starving out South Africa, or is it merely a question of destroying as much shipping as possible?"

The "Telegraaf" adds that every land with a seafaring tradition is disgusted at much the German navy has done in the last few months. — Reuter.

ONLY ONE REASON

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

Amsterdam, To-day.

Extreme indignation is felt throughout Holland at the torpedoing of the Arendskerk.

The "Telegraaf" says the Arendskerk was not transporting contraband, and the only reason for her torpedoing was that she was bound for a belligerent port. — Havas.

MATAUKOK MELEE

The case in which 13 ex-employees of the Chung Wah Book Co., Factory are charged with behaving in a disorderly manner in Pak Tai Street on January 6, was opened this morning before Mr. E. Hilmsworth.

Inspector Rogers said that since the Factory suspended work, the police had been placing special guards round the factory. The Factory had recalled about 300 of the 700 employees dismissed.

The others gathered in front of the factory although not re-employed. At 2 a.m. on January 6, some 20 men were gathered, and numbers grew until at about 11 a.m. there was a crowd of about 300 or 400.

Mr. T. T. Kong, a contractor employed in the "bank-note" printing department, leaving at about that time, was approached by a crowd, who threatened him. The crowd was, it was alleged, led by Tsu Chun-sang (first defendant).

The special police guards summoned the Emergency Unit and tried to pacify the crowd.

A few minutes later, the Emergency Unit arrived. Tsu was taken into custody and there followed a melee.

The police were forced to charge with batons. They arrested nine. When the police van was proceeding, another batch of workers attempted to stop it. The police arrested four from this crowd.

Giving evidence, Mr. Kong said he was stopped by a crowd in front of the factory but could not say who was the leader. He had no idea of their grievance against him.

The case is proceeding.

PRINCE AAGE TO STAY WITH FOREIGN LEGION

Paris, To-day.
Prince Aage, who is an officer in the French Foreign Legion, yesterday denied a report that he had offered his services to the Finnish army.

The Prince said that despite his great sympathy for the heroic Finnish nation he considered it his duty to remain at his post as a major in the French Foreign Legion. — Reuter.

ANOTHER DIVISION READY FOR OVERSEAS

London, To-day.

The King spent yesterday with the troops of the Southern Command and inspected a division which is shortly to proceed overseas. — Reuter.

GERMAN AGREEMENT WITH HUNGARY

(SPECIAL TO "THE CHINA MAIL")

Budapest, To-day.

Economic parleys between Hungary and Germany, fixing "trade exchanges for the current year," have been successfully concluded. — Havas.

NO TRUTH IN QUAKE REPORT

Rome, To-day.

Reports of a second earthquake at Palermo and the collapse of Monreale Cathedral are denied here. — Reuter.

FRENCH PREPARE ELABORATE FLOODING MEASURES

(From Reuter's Special Correspondent with the French Forces)

London, To-day.

ALTHOUGH THERE IS a fringe of ice on the shores of the North Sea, the elaborate flooding measures planned by the French Army at the extremity of the western front are ready to be put into force at a moment's notice.

Within a few hours vast tracts of land could be made impassable for an advancing army.

The measures consist mainly of a reversal of the peace-time method of regulating the network of canals in the district.

Normally the canal locks are closed at high tide and opened at low tide, in order to allow the excess fresh water to run out.

For flooding purposes the locks would be opened at high tide, allowing the sea water to overflow the canal banks, and closed at low tide to keep the water in.

VAST LAKE

Special efforts would first saturate the ground with fresh water, so that

the salt water should damage the rich soil as little as possible.

Steps have also already been taken to prevent any artificial floods spreading to ground occupied by French troops.

The measures include a system of dams which would convert the district into a vast lake virtually impassable to mechanised or other troops. — Reuter.

BRITAIN'S TRADE LAST YEAR

London, To-day.

The Board of Trade announces that imports declined by £33,600,000, or four per cent., in 1939 compared with 1938, and exports by £30,900,000, or seven per cent.

Both imports and exports in December, however, increased compared with November, 1939, and December 1938.

The year ended with a small increase in the adverse balance, namely, £401,000,000, against £387,000,000.

December imports at £86,600,000, were the greatest of any month since December, 1937.

The increases compared with November were mostly in food, grain and flour increasing £2,500,000, meat £1,700,000 and dairy produce £2,700,000.

Exports in December totalled £40,200,000, which is a rise of £2,800,000 compared with November, mainly in manufactured goods. — Reuter.

PEACETIME LEVELS OVERTAKEN

London, To-day.

British overseas trade returns indicate that both imports and exports during December not only returned to but overtook peacetime levels.

In December, imports totalled £86,582,000 against £83,989,000 in November and £74,132,000 in December, 1938.

Exports totalled £40,169,000 against £37,360,000 and £39,099,000.

Re-exports totalled £2,502,000 against £2,745,000 and £4,779,000. — British Wireless.

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MIRROR OF WORLD OPINION

U.S. AND THE WAR

France and Great Britain have staked their very existence as democracies on this struggle, forced upon them by the use of tyrannous might in the rape of smaller countries, whose right to exist independently cannot be denied even by those who are suppressing them. Defeat for the Allies would mean the subjection of Europe to a system of helotry which alone can satisfy the irrational ambitions of the coterie of irresponsibles at present dominating the welfare of Germany. That is a matter which the people of the United States cannot regard dispassionately, for, as the President says, they "must, as a united people, keep ablaze the flames of human liberty, reason, democracy and fair play." Those are the things for which the Allies stand and are fighting. Americans cannot remain uninterested when these principles are threatened in Europe, and while they may remain completely neutral in fact, spiritually they, or at least an overwhelming proportion of them, have already made their judgment which ranges them at least in sympathy in line with the Allies. That fact is apparent in every line of the President's message which deals with the world situation, for in it are condemnation of military aggression, enunciation of the principles for which the Allies stand, and the desire for a just peace. It is to be hoped that the next twelve months will see the realization of his wish: "May the year 1940 be pointed to by posterity as another period when democracy justified its existence as the best instrument of government yet devised by mankind." That is nothing less than an expression of the desire that the European democracies will succeed in their fight.—"N. C. D. News."

TOWARDS PEACE IN THE FAR EAST

Peace prospects in China are discussed from the Japanese standpoint in a recent number of "The Oriental Economist." Special significance is attached to the statement by Foreign Minister, Wang Chung-hui at the end of September, in which he expressed the hope for a peaceful solution through mediation by the United States. This is regarded as a sign that the Chiang Kai-shek regime will not now insist on the withdrawal of Japanese forces from China and the restoration of the status quo ante bellum as an essential condition precedent to peace negotiations. The peace Japan seeks is one based on the principle of no indemnity and no cession of territory. She welcomes any indication that China is not unitedly determined to fight on until Japan is economically exhausted and admits defeat. Assistance from third Powers for China, apart from moral support for resistance to aggression, has also to be ruled out with the development of hostilities in Europe. So Japan believes that the Chinese are now ready to make peace on the invader's terms, or at least on conditions that Tokyo would not reject as impossible. The peace balloon sent up by Wang Chung-hui created such a storm that he had to tender his resignation. This is interpreted by Japan as proof of the influence which the Communists continue to exercise over the Chung-King Government. The Chinese Communists stand for a strong and determined policy of resisting Japan to the bitter end. As long as there is a war on, and the need for Chinese unity is stressed, the "Red" element will continue to hold the centre of the stage despite the opposition of

capitalists and industrialists who are the financial mainstay of the Nationalist regime. Chang Kai-shek is depicted by Japanese critics as still driving "two horses hitched to his cart." One pulls hard on the war path; but the other is gaining weight in the movement towards peace at an accelerated pace.—"Ceylon Observer."

OPINION IN EGYPT

It has long been one of the favourite gibes of Nazi propagandists that the British Empire is effete, dying, actually no longer existing. England, they said, in time of need would find that none of the Dominions would come to her support. No one outside of Germany believed this nonsense, but it is none the less pleasing to note with what alacrity the various units of the great British Empire have rallied to the flag at the first sign of danger. The splendid response the Dominions have given the Nazi lies will be translated into action, and men, money and material will be poured out in an almost endless stream, to ensure that whatever happens Hitler will be eradicated from the world and man may once again live in peace and security.—"Egyptian Gazette."

WAR GUILT

Neutrals will remember not only British statements of Polish readiness to negotiate, but Polish statements also. The question which stood in the way of a meeting with Third Reich leaders was whether this meeting could take place in an atmosphere of equality or whether at German bidding Polish statesmen should hustle to Germany, as had Chancellor Schuschnigg of Austria and President Hacha of Czechoslovakia, to sign on the dotted line. The statement that Poland relied on Britain for support is an unwitting compliment to Britain and an unwitting admission of the type of pressure then exerted on Poland by Germany. Without such support no negotiations worthy of the name could have taken place.

France, says the German press, was kept in the dark until "too late." Was August 31 too late? Who decided when the deadline should be set for Polish acceptance of German terms? Who decided that this deadline was past and that therefore German troops should invade Poland? And was France in the dark? Premier Daladier's address to the French Chamber on August 31 gives no basis for such an assumption, but directly charges Germany with having stated by radio that Poland had rejected its terms even though it was known to Allied statesmen, as now seems to be admitted by Germany, that Polish statesmen could not have been aware of them.

How could Lord Halifax have prevented contact between Polish and German statesmen if the Polish statesmen had dared to risk such contact? The effect of the German statements is intended to be: "Britain wanted this war, and forced it on us by trickery through Poland." But if that is so, could the Third Reich's leadership have been so stupid as to fall into a trap by deliberately invading a neighbour's territory?

REPULSE BAY BALL INVITATION

Having had our laugh at this piece of grandiloquence, we would like to opine that when the day comes to retrocede to China the Settlements and Concessions—a development which must and will come in time—persons of dubious motive like Mr. Kentwell will have nothing whatever to do with it.—"China Weekly Review."

The most that this counter propaganda should declare is that Germany did not want this war. But a more important point is that the leadership of the Third Reich wanted Poland. And in a note to a Japanese industrialist, Reichsführer Hitler indicated that even in the last days of crisis he had not given up hope of getting all he wanted without war.—"Christian Science Monitor."

BLACK MARKETS SPRINGING UP IN GERMANY

London, To-day.

THE WAR ON THE ECONOMIC front was discussed in both Houses of Parliament yesterday. In the Lords, the subject was raised by Lord Cecil who was Minister of Blockade in the last war.

In the Commons, the Minister for Economic Warfare, made a statement on the progress of the attack upon the enemy's industrial, financial and economic structure, aimed at crippling and enfeebling his armed forces and on the results so far observed.

Mr. Ronald Cross repeatedly emphasised the desire of the British Government, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of belligerent rights, to spare inconvenience and obviate hardship to neutral interests, and gave as an instance the negotiations of different kinds now in progress with 14 neutral governments.

The Minister began his review by recalling that the Allies were fighting a country in which the whole people had been moulded and hammered into a vast militarised economic machine, deliberately prepared for the waging of war.

That fact, he pointed out, made Germany technically stronger than in the last war, to which he added the important reservation that it also made her more brittle than before.

NEW COURSE

Accordingly, he prophesied that economic events in Germany would take a different course from the last war.

This forecast was given point by the signs he was able to report later in his speech of the effects of the economic warfare on Germany so far.

He claimed that at the end of four and half months of war, Germany was experiencing the same degree of economic strain as she was feeling after two years of the last.

This was reflected in the day to day conditions of life. Rationing already extended to clothing and soap. Severe cold had created demands under the weight of which the coal distribution arrangements had broken down.

There were already significant indications of an abnormal desire on the part of the German population to convert currency into goods—a sure sign of fears of inflation.

BLACK MARKETS

The black market in food was growing up in a number of centres. Shortages of petroleum, iron, copper, wool, oils, fats and other commodities were making themselves felt in industrial conditions. Since export was given priority over the domestic market it was, Mr. Cross argued, the export field which provided the best measure of Germany's industrial embarrassments and he cited as an example the fact that Germany was now exporting motorcars and bicycles to neighbouring neutrals without tyres.

He said he had reports that an important steel works in Germany had had to suspend operations through lack of materials.

TEXTILE SITUATION

In the basic industries, there was frequently a shortage of material. Practically all Germany's supply of raw cotton and 85 per cent. of her wool were obtained normally from overseas and the present textile situation in Germany was such that rationing had had to be introduced for clothing of all kinds.

He produced a ration card for clothing issued to persons in Czechoslovakia. It contained 100 coupons which were to last for a year but the recipients had to give 50 coupons for one suit, 2 coupons for

a handkerchief and from 20 to 30 for a shirt. Therefore, it was pretty clear that by the end of a year a man would not be able to acquire a great deal on this ration card.

Regarding contraband control, the Minister said that thanks to our naval supremacy, few ships were evading the control and virtually the whole of German imports which could be controlled by this weapon had been interrupted.

IMMEDIATE EFFECT

Coming to the machinery for seizing German overseas exports, he said importers overseas had little inducement to order German goods once they were subject to detention and there were good grounds for thinking that the Allied decision to make these exports subject to seizure as a reprisal Germany's illegality at sea, had sufficed, in itself, to cut off the overwhelming bulk of her overseas exports. The result was that the quantity of goods of German origin unloaded after examination was, and was likely to remain, small.

At the same time, Germany was developing devices to camouflage those goods and he gave fair warning that the necessary steps were being taken to check that traffic.

FORESTALLING PURCHASES

On the more positive side, of economic warfare, the Minister spoke of close co-operation with the French Mission on Economic Warfare in London and with the Dominions and the Governments of India and the Colonies.

He also described purchases being made abroad designed to forestall the enemy or to compensate neutrals for trade losses. He declined to give the total figures which, indeed, would be misleading, but very considerable purchases had been made from many countries—in some cases representing quite new trading connections.—British Wireless.

GERMANS SEIZE SWEDISH SHIP

Stockholm, To-day.
An 800-ton Swedish steamer has been captured by the Germans and taken to a German port. She carried 60 passengers and was bound from a Latvian port for Stockholm.—Reuter.

GERMANY'S OBLIQUE ADMISSION

London, To-day.

The extent of German submarine losses was recently confirmed in an unexpected quarter.

A broadcast from Frankfurt said: "The wish of the English is father to the thought. They say they have sunk 70 submarines. If they said 35 they would be a bit nearer the truth."

The Allies have never claimed the sinking of 70 U-boats.

The only aggregate claim was made last Saturday by the French Minister of Marine, who estimated that altogether 30 German submarines had been sunk.

The German broadcast, attempting to conceal from the German people the seriousness of the losses, in fact admits that the losses are more serious than announced by the Allies.—Reuter.

MORE POLICEMEN

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

Shanghai, To-day.

Two thousand more policemen will be enrolled in the City Government, that is, Greater Shanghai's police force.

Japanese sources stated that these men are necessary to facilitate the maintenance of peace and order in extra-Settlement Roads area as well as in the area under the jurisdiction of the "City Government."—Havas.

BRITISH CONTRABAND SEIZURES

London, To-day.

The British Contraband Control detained 3,364 tons of contraband goods destined for Germany during the week ended January 13.

This makes the total since the beginning of the war 547,000 tons.—Reuter.

BOOST IN U.S. EXPORTS

New York, To-day.

Exports from the United States last month amounted to \$358,000,000—the largest for nearly a decade, \$71,000,000 more than in November and \$92,000,000 higher than in December, 1938.

Large shipments of aeroplanes, petroleum and metals to the Allies constituted the principal factor in enlarging the total.

Aeroplanes alone were valued at \$29,000,000, and accounted for most of the increase.

British and French purchases increased from \$44,000,000 in November to \$86,000,000 in December.

Exports of cotton also increased suddenly from \$30,000,000 to \$43,000,000.

S. AMERICAN PURCHASES

The Latin American countries are turning to the United States owing to the war, and increased their purchases by about \$8,000,000 to \$75,000,000, while purchases by Asiatic countries swelled by about \$15,000,000 to \$68,000,000.—Reuter.

BRITAIN AND YANGTSE DECISION

London, To-day.

The British Government welcomes the recent Japanese decision regarding the lifting of the navigation ban on the Yangtse as a step towards the restoration of equal trading opportunities for all in the Yangtse Basin.

This statement was made by the Prime Minister in reply to a question in the House of Commons yesterday.—Reuter.

GERMANY HOLDING ROME ARMS

(SPECIAL TO THE "CHINA MAIL")

Berne, To-day.

The Berlin correspondent of the Basler Nachrichten reports that Italian war material sent to Finland through Germany is still not allowed to leave Germany, contrary to previous rumours.

The Reich as yet has not decided to return this material to Italy.—Havas.

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INEXPENSIVE SATISFYING

RED AMAZONS

Women are fighting side by side with men in Russia's war. They are sharp-shooting, flying Soviet bombers and fighter planes, launching gas barrages in the winter twilight of the North and staging parachute attacks in Karelia—manoeuvres which, incidentally, prove more spectacular than successful.

At many points on the Finnish Front where the Russian troops have shown reluctance to attack women army officers have been sent up the line to shame the men—hardened Joans of Arc whose angels speak from the Kremlin.

In Estonia many Red Army units and batteries are led by women. In Poland women troops are moving in to help restore the wrecked industrial regions by the Stakhanovite system.

Perhaps it is scarcely surprising to find women transformed into Stalin's soldiers. Russia's resourceful—and, as some think, hapless—Eves have long startled the world by the extent of their emancipation.

In Moscow women even clean the streets. In the dreary world beyond Leningrad I have seen them navvying on the roads with pick and shovel,

Checking current statistics, they discovered 13,000 snipers, 6,000 women air defence experts accustomed to handling A. A. guns and searchlights, 1,000 horsewomen and 25,000 nurses.

This was not good enough. A flood of propaganda broke over Russian femininity which still clung to cooking and children. Were women to have nothing better than sewing machines while their menfolk had machine guns? Were they to busy themselves with charity when they were needed side by side to face the enemy?

Unwilling to have combatant women at first, Voroshilov clearly soft-pedalled the idea. He did not see the purpose women might serve in shaming men into more dashing warfare. A Wives' Movement, pledged to remind women of their need for love and a home, rallied against war for women, but has faded out recently.

Willy-nilly, girls as well as boys now have to pass tests in three military subjects during school examinations.

According to latest figures, there are 460,000 women snipers, 120,000 women aviators and aircraft mechanics, and hundreds of thousands more listed as land-girls with military training.

* * *

While the men exchange tractors for tanks a huge body of women take over Soviet food production. But girls of between 18 and 20 are also taking tank corps instruction, and parachutist schools are actually staffed by women.

If it is astonishing to see the Moscow women's flying corps marching past during a Moscow Labour Day parade—lovelies with cropped hair and curt breeches filing between lines of white-coated policemen—it is even more staggering to see one of the feminine parachute "suicide legions" lining up for a show.

Two stream-lined, steel-nerved Soviet girls, Anna Shismareva and Galina Platetskaya, hold the women's world record for jumping from a height of 7,923 metres without oxygen equipment.

* * *

Two other women, Lyuba Berlin and Tamara Ivanova, used to thrill crowds as friendly rivals in delayed action jumps. Unfortunately, they carried their rivalry too far in the long run, and pulled their rip-cords too late to defer a crash to earth.

One woman veteran, Liusa Savchenko, boasts a record of 60 jumps. Another went into arduous training for a long-distance descent, taking her place day by day within a bar-camera, training her lungs to use a minimum of oxygen, but has since found herself destined for motherhood and has postponed—mark you, not abandoned—the attempt.

From tram driving, the Russian woman can easily switch to Army transport. She is armed, holds a marksmanship star, and is confident of being able to defend her lorry if attacked.

"Adepts with bombs," as Voroshilov said of his modern Amazons, "superb snipers, skilled for higher service in military strategy." Russia's women fighters add yet another chapter to the strangeness of modern warfare.

By
HAROLD A.
ALBERT

carrying rails under the orders of a railway foreman, working the clock round in builders' yards, mending furnaces, even mining coal in the Donetz Basin throwing it behind them from the coal face, loading coal into trucks, sorting and grading.

* * *

No fewer than 800,000 women of the Soviet now wear the "Voroshilov Sharpshooter" badge in common with men. They are trained—to quote the official description of their organisation—in "sharpshooting, cavalry, naval warfare, communications, topography, aeroplane building, defence against air and gas attacks, and the breeding of dogs and carrier pigeons."

Under the Pioneers youth movement, girls between eight and 16 can be enrolled for similar instruction, and indeed must be when they become liable for what army officials glibly call "pre-conscription training."

In the children's infantry regiments of Moscow and Leningrad girl up to 16 are accepted as well as boys—much to the discomfiture of the boys.

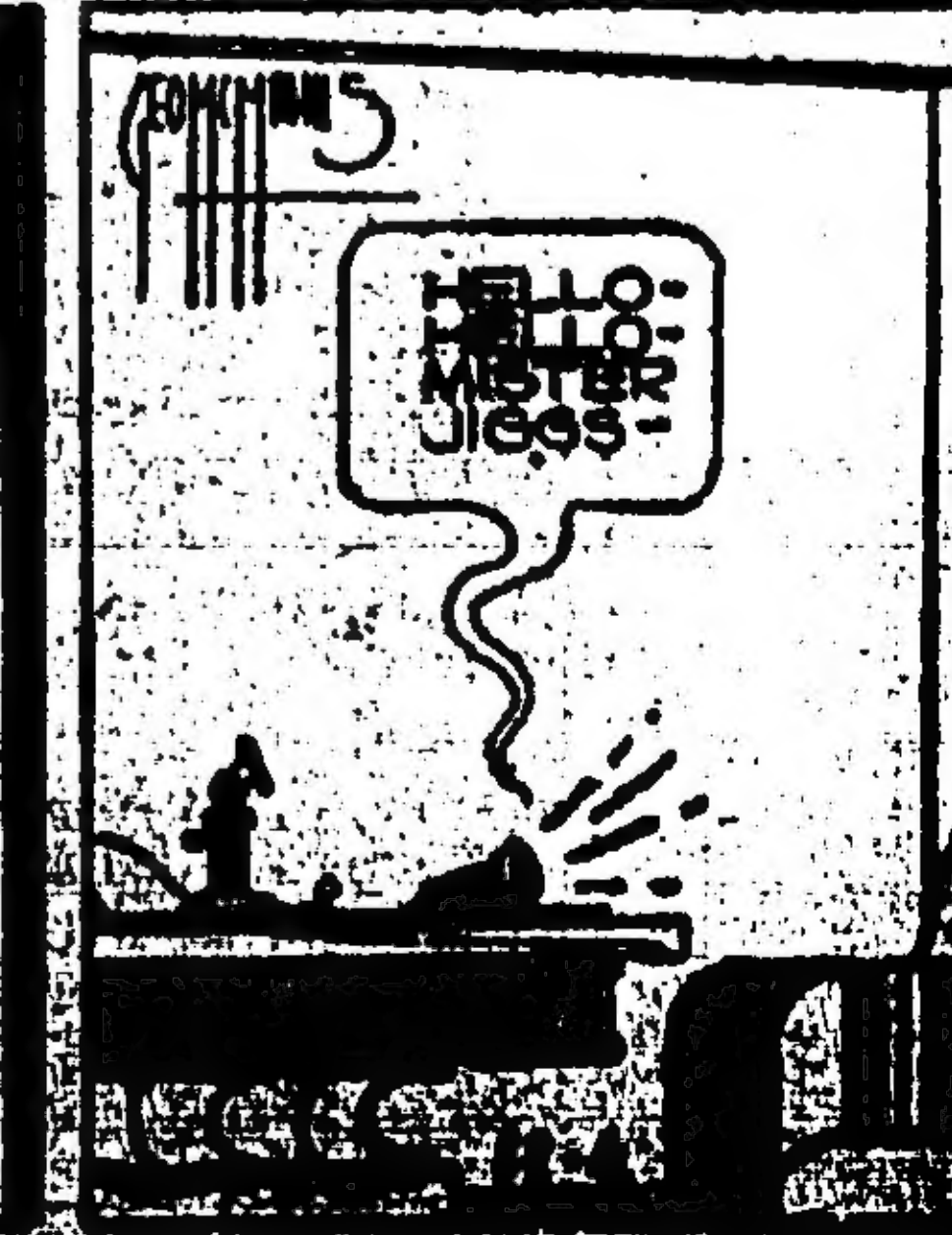
No fewer than 2,500,000 women are enrolled in the Chemical Defence League. All are trained in gas defence, but many are also trained in gas attack—mustard gas, phosgene and tear gas figuring among the "irritants" they can handle.

In 1934 1,500 wives of Soviet Army officers, taking their cue from official expressions of opinion which had already made their duty clear, gathered in the Kremlin to discuss schemes for increasing the efficiency of the U.S.S.R. women's army.

Bringing Up Father



By George McMan



FINNS FACE NEW ONSLAUGHT ON SALLA FRONT

Helsinki, To-day.

FIGHTING IN THE WORST COLD Finland has experienced for 35 years, the Finnish army is now facing a new Russian onslaught on the Salla front.

The Russians have launched three new attacks in their drive westwards towards the Gulf of Bothnia, and a big battle is still raging.

ECONOMIC PACT WITH TURKEY

London, To-day.

Details of the recently signed Anglo-Franco-Turko agreement have now been released.

Britain and France are to give Turkey loans of £43,500,000 of which £25,000,000 will be used to purchase arms from Britain and France. A sum of £15,000,000 will be in gold.

Britain and France have undertaken to purchase annually from Turkey dried fruits to the value of £2,000,000 for the duration of the war.—Reuter.

DUTCH ARMS PURCHASES IN ITALY

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

Amsterdam, To-day.

It is reported that the Dutch-Italian negotiations aiming at delivery of Italian arms and war materials to the Netherlands were launched in Rome yesterday.

The parleys are being carried out by the Dutch Military Mission, commanded by Major-General Hasselman, who is visiting the Italian war industry. — Havas.

SUBMARINE VICTIMS

LONDON, TO-DAY.

THE ADMIRALTY HAS ANNOUNCED THE NAMES OF 109 OFFICERS AND MEN MISSING IN THE THREE BRITISH SUBMARINES—SEAHORSE, UNDINE AND STARFISH—WHICH ARE MISSING AND PRESUMED LOST.

They comprise 5 officers and 34 ratings on the Seahorse; 4 officers and 28 ratings on the Undine; and 5 officers and 35 men on the Starfish.

The German radio has already announced that some of those in the Undine and Starfish have been rescued, but it is not yet known how many.—Reuter.

Two of these attacks have been broken and the Finns are counter-attacking and are advancing towards Salla from the west. The Finns have retaken Kursu.

Only to the south have the Russians had any success, and here the Finns are falling back in good order to new positions at Vittoria.

Finnish patrols report that the Russians are withdrawing heavy guns, presumably as a precaution to avoid the heavy losses they suffered in the defeat on the Suomussalmi front.

RUSSIAN RETREAT

On the eastern front the Finns have scored a big success near Kiteala, north of the lake, where after three days hard fighting, the Russians have suddenly fallen back, abandoning several guns and 20 fast tanks.

The retreat is attributed to lack of supplies.

The intense cold is hampering Soviet air activity.

HARASSING OPERATIONS

Meanwhile the Finnish tactics, apart from trench warfare on the Karelian Isthmus, are directed at destroying the enemy's morale by harassing operations by patrols, which unexpectedly attack the rear and flanks, making the Russians constantly fear being cut off from their supplies, starved and frozen.

Military observers are astonished at the Finns' incredible contempt for the heavy masses of men and machinery, especially tanks.

The Finns have brilliantly produced a number of "nursery tricks" by which a single man put a tank out of action.

"NURSERY TRICKS"

In some cases, a Finnish soldier leapt onto a tank, hit the machinegun with a heavy pole, bending its barrel, the troops dealing with it at their leisure.

The Russians apparently have found it necessary to bring up reinforcements on several fronts, and in one sector they have put into the line cadets who are being trained as officers.—Reuter.

MORE NORWEGIAN VOLUNTEERS

Oslo, To-day.

Another detachment of Norwegian volunteers for the Finnish Army has left for Bergen.—Reuter.

SPANISH-BULGARIAN TRADE PACT

Madrid, To-day.

Spain has concluded a commercial agreement with Bulgaria.—Reuter.

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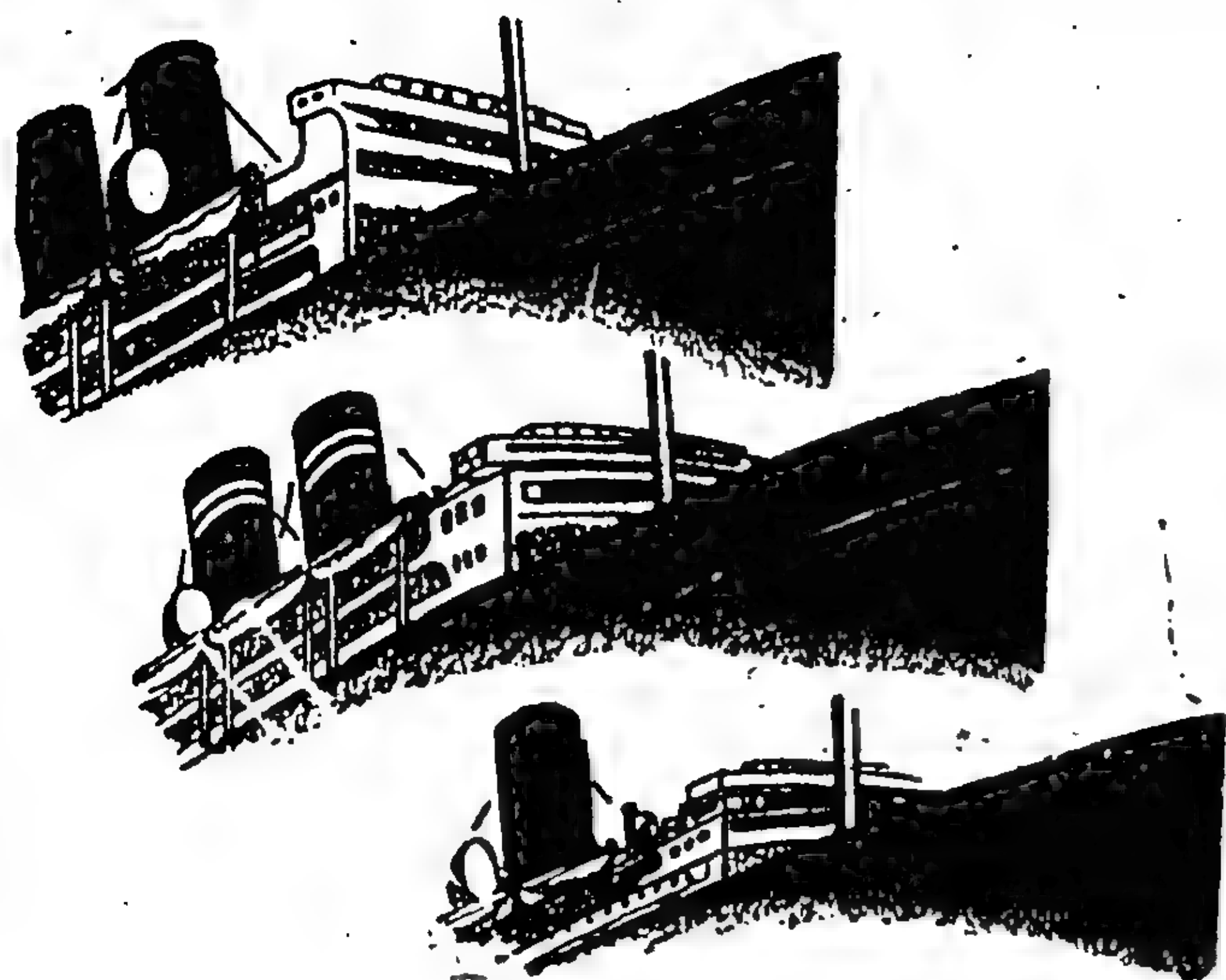
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INWARD MAILS

Japan and Shanghai	January 18.
Shanghai and Amoy	January 18.
Haiphong	January 18.
Shanghai	January 18.
Canton	January 18.
Manila	January 18.
Air Mail by "Imperial Airways Direct Service"—London	January 19.
date, 10th January	January 19.
Shanghai	January 19.
Australia and Manila	January 19.
Canton	January 19.
Sandakan	January 19.
Bangkok, Saigon and Tourane	January 19.
Calcutta and Straits	January 20.
Europe via Suez and Straits—(London date, 2nd Dec., 1939)	January 20.
Haiphong, Hoihow and Fort Bayard	January 20.
Shanghai, Amoy and Swatow	January 20.
Shanghai	January 20.
Straits	January 20.
Straits and Saigon	January 20.
Shanghai	January 20.
Formosa	January 21.
Shanghai	January 21.
Air Mail by "Imperial Airways Direct Service"—London date,	January 21.
13th January	January 21.
Japan	January 21.
Shanghai	January 21.
Shanghai	January 21.
Shanghai and Amoy	January 21.
Air Mail by "Pan American Airways Direct Service"—San	January 22.
Francisco date, 15th January	January 22.
Haiphong and Hoihow	January 23.
Haiphong	January 23.
Shanghai	January 23.
Java and Manila	January 23.
Straits	January 23.
Calcutta, Straits and Saigon	January 24.
Air Mail by "Air France Direct Service"—Paris date,	January 24.
U.S.A., Honolulu, Japan and Manila (San Francisco date, 4th	January 29.
January	January 29.

OUTWARD MAILS

Registered and Parcel Mails are closed 15 minutes earlier than the time given below unless otherwise stated, and where mails are advertised to close at or before 9 a.m., registered and parcel mails are closed at 5 p.m. on the previous day.

For	Per	Date and Time.
THURSDAY		
Amoy		Jan. 18, 2.30 p.m.
Shanghai		Jan. 18, 7.00 p.m.
FRIDAY		
Sandakan		Jan. 19, 8.30 a.m.
Fort Bayard		Jan. 19, 1.30 p.m.
Japan		Jan. 19, 3.30 p.m.
SATURDAY		
Canton		Jan. 20, 10.30 a.m.
Calcutta	Par.,	Jan. 19, 5.00 p.m.
	Ord.,	Jan. 20, 8.30 a.m.
Saigon		Jan. 20, 10.30 a.m.
Haiphong		Jan. 20, 2.00 p.m.
Shanghai and Japan		Jan. 20, 3.30 p.m.
G.P.O. & K.P.O.		
Straits, Ceylon, India, East Africa,	Parcels,	Jan. 20, 3.00 p.m.
Aden, Egypt, Malta and Europe via	Reg.,	Jan. 20, 5.00 p.m.
Suez and London Parcels—due Lon-	Ord.,	Jan. 20, 5.30 p.m.
don, 3rd March.		
G.P.O. & K.P.O.		
Air Mail for "Imperial Airways Direct	Reg.,	Jan. 20, 5.00 p.m.
Service"—due London, 28th Jan.	Ord.,	Jan. 20, 5.30 p.m.
Amoy		Jan. 20, 5.30 p.m.
South Africa via Durban		Jan. 20, 5.30 p.m.
SUNDAY		
Straits		Jan. 21, 9.00 a.m.
Fort Bayard and Hoihow		Jan. 21, 9.00 a.m.
Shanghai		Jan. 21, 9.00 a.m.
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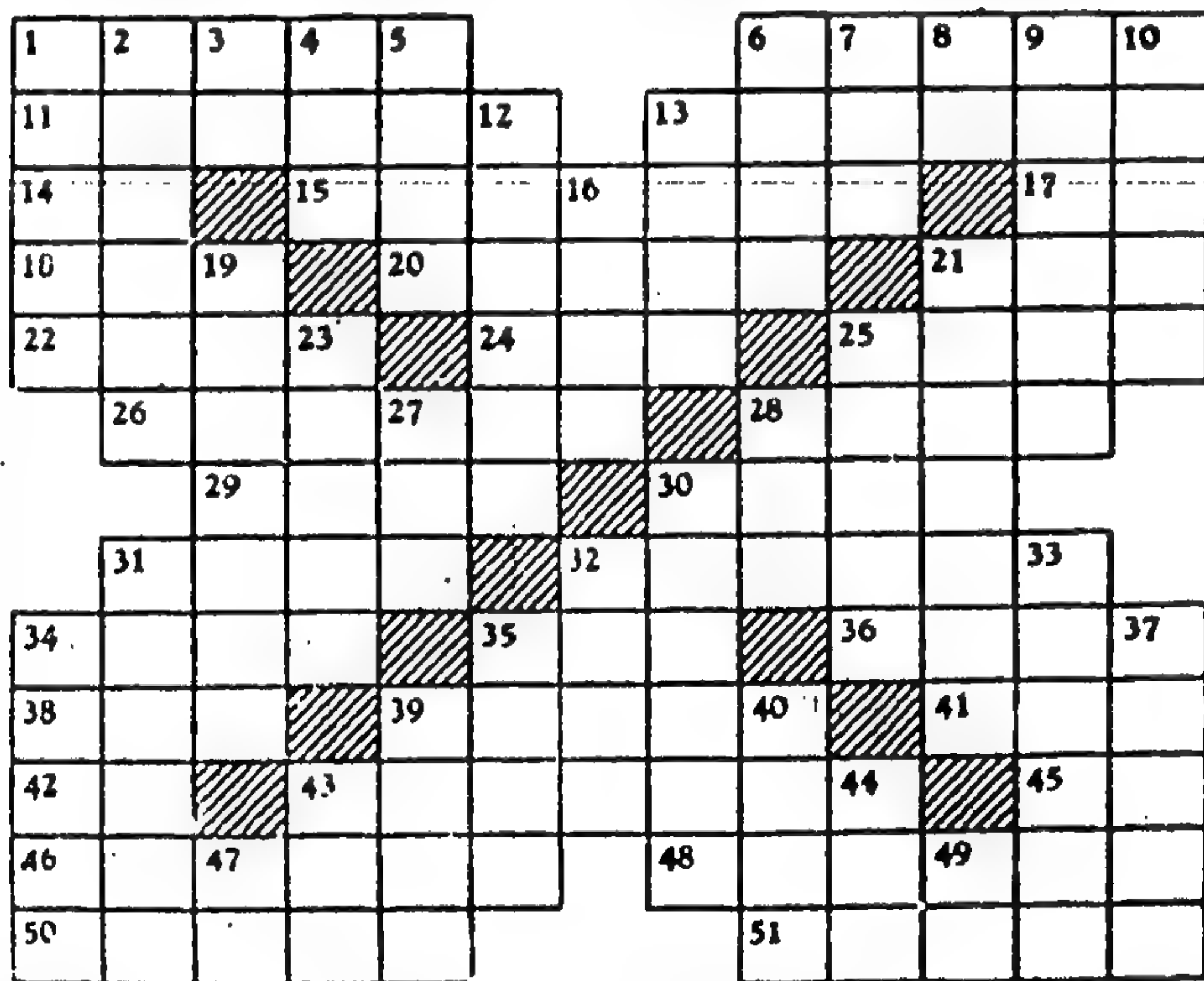
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HORIZONTAL

- 1 Pole
- 6 Breathes rapidly
- 11 Parts of flowers
- 13 Dawn goddess
- 14 Teutonic deity
- 15 Creeping animal
- 17 Mulberry
- 18 Unit of work
- 20 Jocose
- 21 Fruit seed
- 22 Exit
- 24 Abstract being
- 25 Strokes
- 26 Courses
- 28 Affectations
- 29 Molds
- 30 Dill
- 31 Deer
- 32 Ardor
- 34 Tribulations
- 35 Brim
- 36 To sow
- 38 Worm
- 39 Moisture in air
- 41 Hindu weight
- 42 Pronoun
- 43 Ammunition wagon

VERTICAL

- 45 Part of infinitive
- 46 To call attention
- 48 Encomiums
- 50 Vehicles
- 51 Pitchers

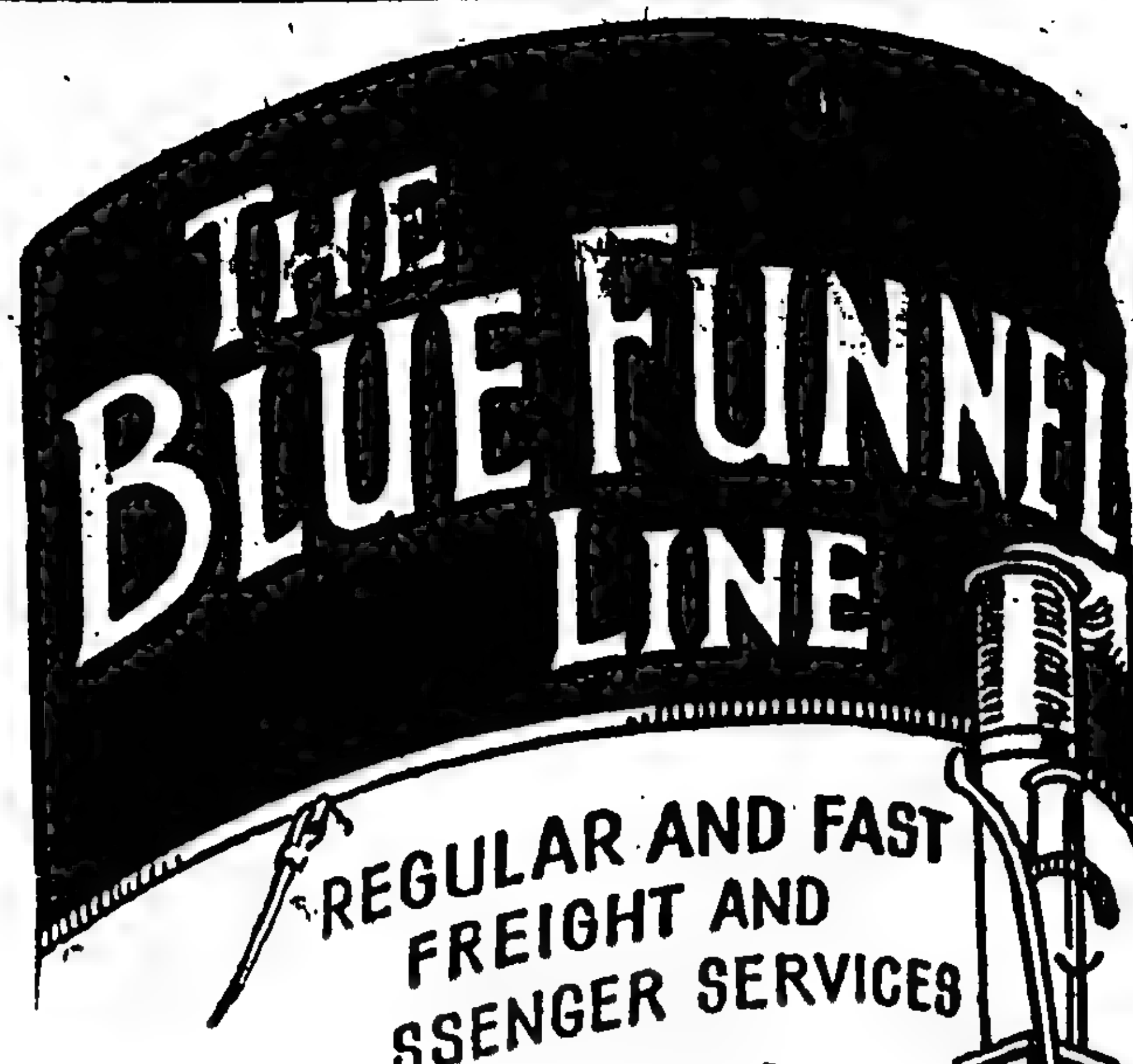
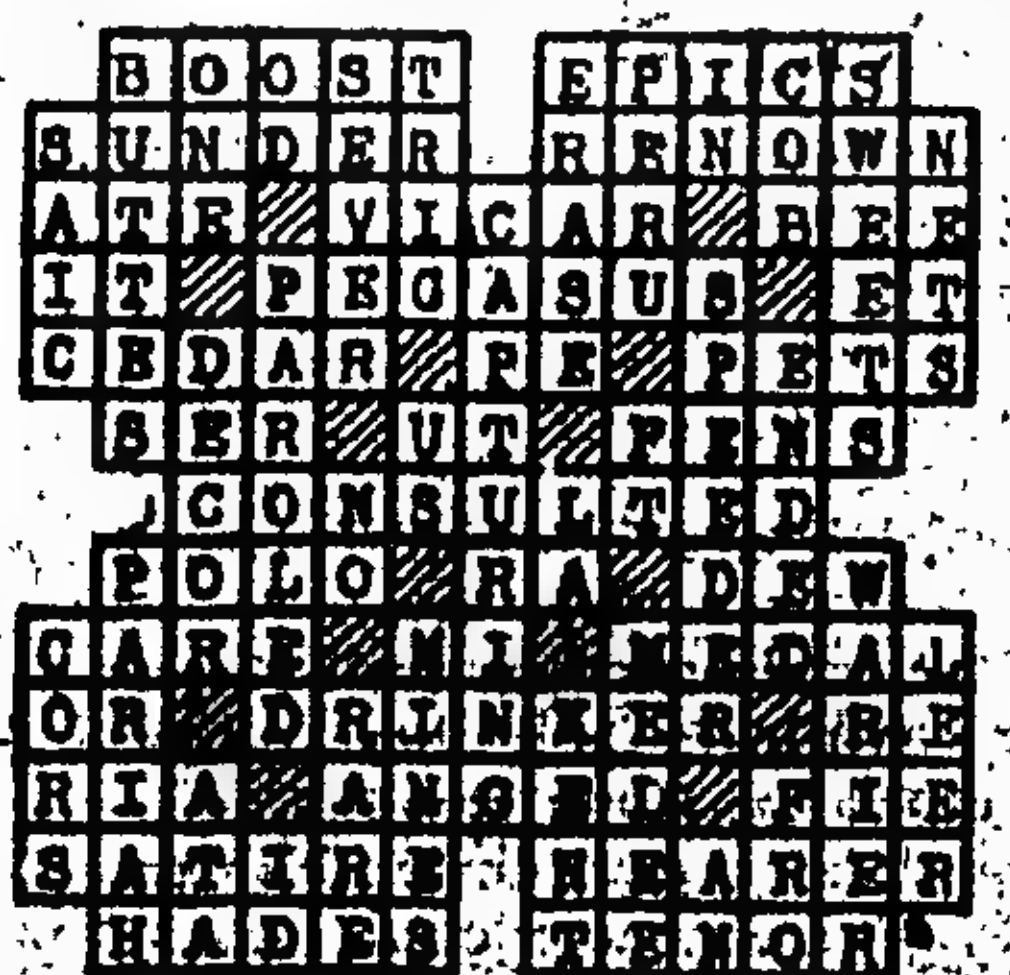
VERTICAL

- 1 To hasten
- 2 Great fright
- 3 By
- 4 Distant
- 5 Deserted
- 6 To haul

VERTICAL

- 7 Part of "to be"
- 8 Japanese drama
- 9 Characteristics
- 10 Seasons
- 12 Revels
- 13 Suffers
- 16 Weights
- 19 Sweetmeats
- 21 Political divisions
- 23 Demolishes
- 25 Wharves
- 27 Spread for drying
- 28 Tropical blackbird
- 30 To apply
- 31 Inn
- 32 Tastes
- 33 To rock
- 34 Fish traps
- 35 Placed
- 37 Slog
- 39 Moving trucks
- 40 Part
- 43 Spanish hero
- 44 At once
- 47 Pronoun
- 49 Mother of Titan

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SATURDAY
ALHAMBRA

CHIEF JUSTICE SEES NO REASON FOR LENIENCY

FOLLOWING AN ADDRESS by Hon. Mr. Leo d'Almada pleading for leniency, Wong Ngai was to-day sentenced to three years' imprisonment by Sir Atholl MacGregor, for possession of 12½ ounces of heroin at Hotel Cecil on December 12.

The Hon. Mr. Leo d'Almada, appearing for the defence, pleaded guilty and said that accused was for eight or nine years in business in the Sze Yap district where he lost some \$30,000 to \$40,000. He came to Hong Kong and was for five years manager of a boarding house. This business did not prosper. He became heavily in debt and resigned in April, 1938. From that time, he had tried to earn a living as a general broker, but could not earn enough for his wife, two children and aged mother.

In November, defendant planned a cafe in Macao, which he considered a good proposition in view of the number of refugees there. He visited Macao to investigate and was convinced.

Back in Hong Kong on December 12, he met an old friend, Lam Wing, who was well-to-do. They discussed their affairs and accused said he wanted to start a cafe in Macao but had no capital. He painted a rosy picture of the scheme and Lam said he would assist him to the extent of \$2,000 to \$3,000.

Lam then asked accused to do him a favour, to take three parcels to a Mr. Lee at a tea house as he, Lam, was in a hurry. Accused asked what the contents were and was told heroin. Accused was reluctant, and Lam said that if accused was not ready to help him, he would withdraw his offer of finance.

GREAT INDUCEMENT

The beginning of the cafe meant much to accused. The inducement was great and he agreed. He arranged to meet Lam in Macao shortly after.

Accused went to the tea house, but did not find Lee there. Accused then went for a walk and met a friend, Wong, who said he was staying at the Hotel Cecil. Later he went back to the tea house but still could not find Lee and he then decided to call on Wong at the Hotel Cecil. On arrival, he was arrested.

Mr. d'Almada said accused's behaviour was consistent with the story. He referred to that part of Mr. Grimmit's evidence in which he stated that accused made no attempt to run away.

WENT IN WITH EYES OPEN

His Lordship said there was very little to be said for defendant. He went in with his eyes open and made possible the transfer of drugs from one party to another. One point which had not been touched upon was whether accused had put the authorities in touch with Lam.

Mr. d'Almada replied that accused knew the address of Lam in the country, but not in Hong Kong, and was to have met Lam in Macao.

Mr. M. J. Abbott, for the Crown, said his instructions were that accused gave no assistance to the authorities and made no attempt to help to trace the friends heard so much about.

On passing sentence, His Lordship said that he had long made known his attitude in these cases and there could be no differentiation in this.

REFUGEES' PRODUCTS

Sir,—The production of garden vegetables at the Shumchun Rural Welfare Centre's Refugee Farm has reached a point where supplies are being brought to the city daily. Our list includes tomatoes, carrots, beet, lettuce, all of which are specially grown for salads, only sanitary fertilizer being used. Brussels sprouts and broccoli are also available and they are entirely new crops for Hong Kong.

Within a fortnight, cauliflower, savoy and red cabbage, sweet corn, beans and peas of different sorts will be ready.

Readers may phone orders to 25621.

WORKING OF CONTRABAND CONTROL

London, To-day.

Weekly details of ships in the three British contraband bases, published yesterday, show that on January 16 there were 31 vessels in the bases of which 14 had been there five days or less.

During the week ended January 13 the Contraband Committee considered the cargoes of 161 ships which arrived since January 6, and 35 cargoes from the previous week.

Of these 114 entire cargoes were released.

Sixty-four cases were dealt with under the system of advance copy manifests, and in 49 cases vessels were released subject to formal checking of the original manifests.

During the same period 3,364 tons of miscellaneous goods had been detained on evidence of German destination.—British Wireless.

SOVIET AIR ADVANTAGE

London, To-day.

Between 300 and 400 Soviet bombers have been over Finland every day recently, the Finnish spokesman told Reuter yesterday.

To ward off these attacks the Finnish air force has about half that number of planes, roughly 150.

This includes training machines and aeroplanes received from abroad since the war began.—Reuter.

JAIL FOR FOUR YEARS

Sentence of four years' hard labour was passed on Ho Kin, by Sir Atholl Macgregor this morning when he pleaded guilty to robbery by two or more of \$15,700 in Hong Kong currency and \$1,100 in Chinese currency from Fung Kwong-shing, in Wellington Street on December 20.

Mr. M. J. Abbott said accused had no record and gave the Police every assistance. His Lordship said he took that into consideration.

SWEDEN DENIES BRITISH OFFER REPORT

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

Stockholm, To-day.

The Foreign Office yesterday formally denied that Britain had proposed to guarantee Swedish independence and integrity.—Havas.

NAZIS DETAIN SHIP

Stockholm, To-day.

The Swedish steamer Birger Jarl, en route to Stockholm from Latvia with 50 passengers, has been captured by the Germans and taken to Swinemunde.—Reuter.

The Director of Air Raid Precautions has issued a reminder that application forms for the purchase of respirators are now available, and can be obtained either from the A.R.P. Department, Lower Albert Road, or from any Police Station.

or write to the Shumchun Rural Welfare Centre, Room 328, Prince's Building.

EMILY KO,
Assistant Secretary.

REAL LIFE DETECTIVE TRIUMPHS

THE KENSINGTON GARDENS MYSTERY

Chief Constable Wensley of Scotland Yard was smoking his pipe and taking his ease on the night of Oct. 4, 1922—very much as the fictional Sherlock Holmes did in Baker St.—and congratulating himself that London at last was behaving itself—at least as far as major crime was concerned—when he got a message saying that a man had been murdered at Kensington Gardens, Ilford.

And a strange murder it was! It seems that Percy Thompson, a young shipping clerk, was walking home from the theatre with his wife, Edith, when he suddenly staggered, fell to the sidewalk and died. She screamed hysterically and the doctor who responded found blood gushing from the young man's mouth. At first the physician imagined it was the result of a haemorrhage.

But a closer examination proved that the victim had died from a knife wound in the back of the neck.

Mrs. Thompson was not able to give the police any help. She was in such a highly nervous state and so obviously grief-stricken that they could get nothing coherent from her.

BROTHER GIVES CLUE

The man had been stabbed in the dark and for days Detective Wensley and his aides also worked in the dark.

By
GEORGE BARTON

It was a brother of the dead man who gave them the first faint clue. He said that a mutual friend, a Freddy Bywaters, lived with the Thompsons for a time after their marriage. The husband suspected that he was "a bit too friendly with his wife" and sent him away. He had gone to sea as a ship's accountant and, the brother said, for that reason could not have been concerned in the crime.

But Detective Wensley, putting the famous Flying Squad to work, learned that Bywaters had been visiting his sister, a few miles from the Thompson home, on the night of the tragedy. He was found, brought to Scotland Yard for an interview. He indignantly denied all knowledge of the crime, said he had never owned a knife.

Wensley, with bulldog tenacity, began a search into his past life. He found that Bywaters and Edith Thompson had been friends from childhood and were supposed to "be sweet" on each other. He was thereupon "detained," as the English police



have it, and Wensley felt justified in making a search of his lodgings. He found a bunch of letters from Mrs. Thompson to Bywaters filled with ardent protestations of love. Reading between the lines of one of these missives it was deduced that she had put ground glass in the coffee of her husband, but that no fatal results had followed. As a result of this Edith was also "detained".

THE WIDOW BREAKS

They were in separate cells, but one morning, going from her place of detention to the hearing room, she caught a glimpse of Bywaters, and, breaking down, she exclaimed:

"Why did he do it! Why did he do it!"

Confronted with this, Bywaters admitted that he had waited for the couple when they came from the theatre. His excuse was that he wanted to protest to Thompson against the way he was treating Edith. He asserted that they had an argument in the dark street which developed into a violent quarrel. In the struggle, he said, he had accidentally stabbed Thompson. This, of course, was a direct contradiction of the testimony of Mrs. Thompson, who insisted that she did not know how her husband had been killed.

At the trial the evidence tended to show that the whole business had been cold-bloodedly plotted in advance and that she had stood by while Bywaters had killed her husband. Both were convicted and sentenced to be hanged. Petitions were signed by thousands of people begging that the life of the woman be spared, but the Home Secretary declined to intervene on the ground that both had been given a fair trial before an impartial jury.

It was another triumph for Wensley and Scotland Yard and still another demonstration of the Biblical warning that the wages of sin is death.

MUTUAL AID IN BALKANS

[SPECIAL TO "THE CHINA MAIL"]

Bucharest, To-day.

Despite the previous repeated denials, considerable political importance is attached to the forthcoming meeting of Prince Paul of Yugoslavia and King Carol of Rumania.

It is expected that the Sovereigns will discuss both the Russian threat to the Balkans and the Italian interests there. —Havas.

PRESIDENT AND AID TO FINLAND

Washington, To-day.

President Roosevelt has suggested that Finland be lent an unspecified sum to buy farm products and manufactured goods—not armaments. This he feels, it is not likely to involve the United States in foreign wars. —Reuter.

Mr. H. Hall, of the P.W.D. has reported that 32 boxes of detonators valued at \$448 were stolen from the Government store at Quarry Bay since Tuesday.

IMPERIAL AIR ARMADA FIGURES

London, To-day.

It is stated in London that the £120,000,000 Empire air training scheme will require a personnel of at least 30,000 airmen, 2,680 officers, nearly 5,000 civilians and over 1,000 maintenance staff, according to a Canadian estimate.

Nearly 70 instructional schools will be needed to bring to perfection the Imperial air armada. — Reuter.

NAZIS KEEP UP CHARGES

London, To-day.

Despite the Dutch official denial, the German news agency yesterday repeated the assertion made in a German High Command communique that a Dutch plane flew over German territory near Nordhorn on January 13.

The Nazi agency stated that Dutch violation of German territory had been established beyond a doubt.

It added that the plane was recognised by the colour of its markings. — Reuter.



It's all right for a girl to make her mark in the world but not on another girl's best beau's collar.

THREE RUSSIAN PLANES CAPTURED

Helsinki, To-day.

The crews of three Russian planes which made a forced landing in Finland after raiding the Swedish town of Lulea, have been taken prisoner. —Reuter.

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When your joints start to creak and crack, it is a sure sign that your system is producing too much harmful uric acid. If you fail to heed the warning, you are storing up trouble for yourself. Read this letter, from one who suffered for years before she found out how to obtain relief:—

"For 25 years I suffered from sciatica in my right side, and I had backaches which forced me to remain in bed for two or three weeks at a time. When I got up in the mornings, my arms and legs used to crack as though I were breaking dry wood. One day, I heard of Kruschen Salts. I took a bottle of them without feeling much improvement. I tried a second bottle, and that time I felt better. I have kept on taking Kruschen ever since."

—(Mrs.) H.L.

The pains of sciatica and lumbago are caused by an excess of uric acid in the body. Two of the ingredients of Kruschen Salts have the power of dissolving uric acid crystals. Other ingredients of these salts assist Nature to expel these dissolved crystals through the natural channels.



"Background To News" & Other London Relays

5.45 p.m.—STUDIO—Children's Hour.
6.45 p.m.—Closing Local Stock Quotations.
6.47 p.m.—EXCERPTS from Gilbert & Sullivan's "Trial by Jury".
That She is Reeling... Leo. Sheffield.
7.00 p.m.—LONDON RELAY—"Twilight Tapestry". A Variety Show.
7.30 p.m.—LONDON RELAY—The News.
8.00 p.m.—Local Time Signal, Weather Report and Announcements.
8.03 p.m.—A Light Orchestral Concert with Jeanette MacDonald (Soprano) and Nelson Eddy (Baritone).
Drury Lane Memories—Show Boat: Old Man River; Rose Marie; Indian Love Call; Three Musketeers: Ma Belle; March of the Musketeers.... Regal Cinema Orchestra cond. by Emanuel Starkey.
Try To Forget (film "The Cat and the Fiddle"); To-night Will Teach Me To Forget (film "The Merry Widow").... Jeanette MacDonald

To-day's Wireless

ZBW 355 M. (845 k.c.'s) and 31.49 M. 9.52 Megacycles

(Soprano) with Orchestra.
Milestones of Melody.
Intro: Knightsbridge March (E. Coates); Missouri Waltz (Logan); I'll sing three songs of Araby (Clay); Pink Lady Waltz (Caryl); Believe me if all those endearing young charms; Valse Bleue (Margis); All through the night "Faust-Ballet Music" (Gounod); Soldiers in the Park (Monckton)... New Mayfair Orchestra with Vocal Refrain.
Ah! Sweet Mystery of Life (from "Naughty Marietta").... Jeanette MacDonald (Soprano) & Nelson Eddy (Baritone) with Orchestra.
March of the Little Lead Soldiers (Pierne); Parade Of The Tin Soldiers (Jessel)... Regal Orchestra.

Sun-Up To Sundown (film "The Girl of the Golden West"); Senorita (film "The Girl of the Golden West").... Nelson Eddy (Baritone) with Orchestra.
What's Next? (A Potpourri of popular tunes of the last half Century—arr. Herman Finck)... Herman Finck & His Orchestra.
8.45 p.m.—STUDIO—Talk on "Palestine".
9.02 p.m.—ELGAR—"Crown of India" Suite, Op. 66. London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sir Edward Elgar.
9.15 p.m.—LONDON RELAY—News Summary.
9.30 p.m.—JACK HYLTON and His Orchestra.
9.55 p.m.—PIANO DUETS by Rawicz

Sibelius Symphony And Light Orchestral Concert

and Landauer.
Schubert Time (arr. Rawicz & Landauer); Waltz Memories from Vienna (arr. Rawicz & Landauer); Faust—Waltz Variations (Gounod—arr. Rawicz & Landauer); Carmen—Selection (Bizet—arr. Rawicz & Landauer).
10.08 p.m.—EXCERPTS from Grand Opera.
"Der Rosenkavalier" (Richard Strauss)—Finale Scene (with Waltzes) Act 2.... Duet: Richard Mayr and Anni Andraggy with Orchestra cond. by Bruno Walter.
"Thais" (Massenet)—Tell Me I Am Beautiful; Love is a Virtue Rare.... Maryse Beaujon (Soprano) with Orchestra.
10.24 p.m.—SIBELIUS—Symphony No. 1 in E Minor, Op. 39. Symphony Orchestra conducted by Professor Robert Kajanus.
11.00 p.m.—LONDON RELAY—"Background to News".
11.15 p.m.—CLOSE DOWN.



(By The Four Aces)

David Bruce Burnstone, Merwin D. Maier, Oswald Jacoby, Howard Schenken... World's leading Team-of-Four, Inventors of the system that has beaten every other system in existence.

FREAKISH DISTRIBUTION

Mrs. Jack Richards of Miami, Fla., who sat South, sends us to-day's hand, which she says is the best she ever held in her life, and asks us to comment on the bidding.

South, Dealer
Neither side vulnerable

♠ 9 7 8 2
♦ K 8 5 4 3
♣ 7 6 5 4
♠ 8 7 6 5
♥ Q J 10 8
♦ 10 9 7 6
♣ 3
♠ A K Q J 10 9
♥ K 5
♦ A J
♣ K Q J
Mrs. Richards

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl.
Redbl.	Pass	Pass	Pass

Four spades was made on the following play: A club was opened. East won with the Ace and led a second club, which West trumped. Now West led a heart. East won with the Ace and played another club, but at this point, since East was out of trumps, Mrs. Richards won the trick and spread her hand. If East had had the forethought to cash her Ace of hearts before leading the second club, then she would have been able to ruff a heart, thereby beating the hand one trick.

Now for the bidding. We approve of Mrs. Richards' bidding, even though the way the cards lay three notrump was laydown and four spades might have been defeated. We do not particularly like East's double. On the other hand, six trumps and two Aces are a great temptation. Following the double, we surely would have redoubled just as Mrs. Richards did.

Yesterday you were Oswald Jacoby's partner and held:

♠ x
♥ A Q x x x
♦ x x x
♣ K Q x x

The bidding:

Jacoby	Schenken	You	Maier
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	(?)	

ANSWER: Bid five hearts. This bid shows that you are interested in a Slam, but at the same time denies any outside Ace.

Score 100% for five hearts, 50% for pass, 30% for five clubs (indicates the club Ace), 20% for six hearts (an overbid).

QUESTION NO. 311

You are Merwin Maier's partner to-day and hold:

♠ K 5
♥ 9 6 2
♦ K 10 9
♣ 10 6 5 4 3

The bidding:

You	Burnstone	Maier	Schenken
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
(?)			

What do you bid? (Answer tomorrow.)

(Released by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

PARSONS' BOWLING FEAT

Playing in a friendly match at Sookunpoo yesterday, Royal Engineers beat Royal Army Ordnance Corps by 11 runs.

Bowlers completely dominated batsmen. For R.A.O.C., Buckle and Boocock bowled unchanged through the R.E. innings to take 6 for 40 and 4 for 34, respectively, while Capt. Parsons, of R.E., was unplayable to take 6 for 10 and play a big part in his side's victory.

Parsons took his first three wickets for 0 runs in two overs, and his last three in his last over for 2 runs.

R.E.	Runs
Spr. Bailey, c Phillips, b Boocock	12
Capt. Wilkinson, c Gardener, b Buckle	17
Spr. Ratcliffe, c Boocock, b Buckle	1
Spr. Heath, b Buckle	5
S. M. Green, c Gardener, b Boocock	20
Sgt. Shipp, c and b Boocock	1
Sgt. Denyer, c Munton, b Buckle	7
Capt. Parsons, c and b Buckle	4
Spr. Tate, not out	1
Spr. Harper, b Boocock	5
Spr. Goss, b Buckle	1
Extras (B4, LB1)	5

Total 79

Bowling Analysis	O.	M.	R.	W.
Buckle	11	1	40	6
Boocock	10	2	34	4

R.A.O.C.	Runs
S/Sgt. Gardener, lbw., b Ratcliffe	15
Pte. Boocock, b Ratcliffe	8
Cpl. Munton, st. Wilkinson, b Parsons	2
Sgt. Rides, c Wilkinson, b Parsons	5

Runs	
S/Sgt. Meekings, lbw., b Denyer	12
S/Condr. Buckle, lbw., b Parsons	0
Capt. Bridge, c Wilkinson, b Parsons	8
Capt. MacPherson, c Denyer, b Parsons	0
L/Cpl. Lock, b Parsons	2
Pte. Osman, not out	0
Pte. Phillips, b Denyer	0
Extras (W1, B9, LB8)	18

Total 68

Bowling Analysis	O.	M.	R.	W.
Ratcliffe	6	2	20	2
Shipp	3	1	8	0
Parsons	6	2	10	6
Denyer	3	1	12	2

Capt. Parsons bowled a wide ball.

HOME FOOTBALL

London, To-day.
Two matches were played in the "Southern A" Division of the Football League yesterday.
Crystal Palace, playing at home, lost to West Ham United by three clear goals.
The Spurs shocked a large crowd of home supporters by losing to Southend United 4-2.—Reuter.



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BADMINTON

KING'S GREAT EFFORT
AGAINST ST. JOHN'S

Lose Final Game Of Evening After Recovery

SMITH AND WILSON
CARRY HOME TEAM

DOWN BY 2-4 AT THE commencement of the final round, King's made a great effort to keep themselves in the running for "B" Division honours. They won the first two games but, in the decider, Norman Smith and Peter Wilson easily beat S. W. Liang and K. H. Lo, to inflict on King's their second defeat in successive matches.

King's, however, showed vast improvement over their form against Recreio and had they possessed a third string capable of winning a game, they would have won.

Lui and Woo and S. P. Chan and Chung made valiant efforts and both won two games but the fine form shown by Peter Wilson and Norman Smith turned the tide in favour of the home team.

KWOKS OFF FORM

David Kwok and Frank Kwok, on paper the strongest home pair, were unable to get going and were badly beaten in two games, whilst Henry Eardley and R. Beavan fared little better.

The match was really decided in the second game of the evening when Smith and Wilson won a thrilling game against Chan and Chung before the latter pair had settled down to condition.

Barros In Fine Form

At King's Park, Kowloon Tong although beaten by the seemingly large margin of 6-3, gave Recreio some anxious moments, but their collapse in the final round cost them the match.

Recreio led 2-1 at the end of the second round, but, recovering in the next, Kowloon Tong started off the final round level with every chance of securing two games in the final.

R. E. Lee and F. S. Ko, their first string, however, were unable to beat H. Gonsalves and R. Marques, whom N. A. E. Mackay and B. P. C. Fletcher had beaten in the previous round, and as a result, the match was lost.

Easily the finest home pair were H. A. Barros and A. E. Xavier.

Barros indeed gave the finest performance of the evening, his wealth of experience and fine positional play pulling the combination out of many a tight spot.

Xavier was at his best at the net and gave little away.

Gonsalves and Marques were not as convincing as against King's. The former did not make many mistakes but the latter was inclined to mis-time when pressed hard.

For the visitors, Richard Lee would have played better had he received more support from Ko, who was woefully off form.

Fletcher and Mackay did well to win two games as a result of Fletcher's powerful smashing and great retrieving.

FIRST WIN FOR K.C.C.

In the other Junior matches, Kowloon Cricket Club secured their first victory of the season when they beat Victoria Recreation Club at Cox's Road. J. L. Anderson and A. L. Fisher and P. Wynter-Blyth and J. C. Kevan both won all their games.

"B" Division Results

Recreio beat Kowloon Tong 6-3 in the "B" Division.
H. A. Barros and A. Xavier (Recreio) beat R. E. Lee and F. S. Ko 21-16
beat N. A. E. Mackay and B. P. C. Fletcher 21-14
beat Lee Kam-ming and A. E. H. Castro 21-9

N. A. Beltrao and P. A. Yvanovich (Recreio).

lost to Lee and Ko 18-21

lost to Mackay and Fletcher 16-21

beat Lee Kam-ming and Castro 21-4

R. A. Marques and H. Gonsalves (Recreio).

beat Lee and Ko 21-8

lost to Mackay and Fletcher 18-21

beat Lee Kam-ming and Castro 21-3

K.C.C. v V.R.C.

The K.C.C. beat V.R.C. 6-3 in a V.R.C. home match played at the K.C.C.

J. Souza and S. A. Rumjahn (V.R.C.).

lost to A. L. Fisher and J. L. Anderson 5-21

lost to T. Wynter-Blyth and J. C. Kevan 19-24

beat C. M. Jones and J. R. Turner 21-8

F. Castro and A. K. Rumjahn (V.R.C.).

lost to Fisher and Anderson 5-21

lost to Wynter-Blyth and Kevan 10-21

beat Jones and Turner 21-7

ST. JOHN'S v KING'S COLLEGE

St. John's beat King's College 5-4 in the "B" Division.

D. Kwok and F. Kwok (St. John's).

lost to K. L. Lui and H. T. Woo 12-21

lost to S. P. Chan and W. C. Chung 14-31

beat S. W. Liang and K. H. Lo 21-4

N. Smith and P. Wilson (St. John's).

beat Lui and Woo 21-14

beat Chan and Chung 23-21

beat Liang and Lo 21-7

H. Eardley and R. Beavan (St. John's).

lost to Lui and Woo 12-21

lost to Chan and Chung 13-21

beat Liang and Lo 21-5

CRICKET

BISHOP SARGENT SOON
FINDS HIS TOUCH

BISHOP SARGENT, former headmaster of Diocesan Boys' School, now here on holiday, wasted little time in getting into action on the cricket field. Yesterday he led a team against the School, and himself played a big part in the 110-run victory.

Batting first Bishop Sargent's XI put together the respectable score of 181 for 5, of which W. L. Rapley (42) and A. J. M. Prata (33) added 78 for the first wicket.

Rapley hit a five and three fours, while Prata only found the boundary twice.

Later, A. M. Prata batted brightly for 21 and Sargent and A. Zimmermann were associated in an unbroken sixth-wicket stand of 49 runs.

School fared badly before some fine bowling by A. M. Prata, C. N. Matthews and Sargent and were all out for 71.

Highest scorer was E. Mazura with 23, only other double-figure scorer being K. Harris with 18.

BISHOP SARGENT'S XI

W. L. Rapley, b Macauley 42
A. J. M. Prata, run out 33
W. H. Jones, c Goodban, b Harris 9
A. M. Prata, b Burch 21
G. W. Hong Chay, c Wong, b Burch 8
C. N. Sargent, not out 26
A. Zimmermann, not out 13
Extras 18
Total (88-8 wkts. dec.) 181

P. K. Lau, G. G. Davies, C. N. Matthews and J. L. Youngsaye did not bat.

Bowling Analysis

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Burch	10	0	53	2
Ebrahim	8	0	65	0
Macauley	3	0	15	1
Harris	2	0	11	1
Mazura	1	0	15	0
Fisher	1	0	5	0
L. R. Burch, bowled two wide balls.				
J. Macauley, c and b Prata	9			
J. Fisher, b Prata	3			
G. A. Goodban, c Lau, b Matthews	1			
K. Harris, hit wkts., b Sargent	18			
L. Chinfen, lbw., b Matthews	0			
A. Ebrahim, b Matthews	3			
L. R. Burch, b Matthews	0			
K. Farnuel, c and b Sargent	7			
E. Mazura, st. Jones, b Youngsaye	23			
A. White, b Sargent	6			
Wong Shui-loy, c and b Sargent	1			
E. Randall, not out	0			
Extras (11)	1			
Total	71			

Bowling Analysis

	O.	M.	R.	W.
A. M. Prata	4	0	17	2
A. Zimmermann	2	0	15	0
Matthews	3	0	15	2
Sargent	2	0	15	2
Youngsaye	2	1	15	1

REDMAN &
NELSON IN
GOOD FORM

(By "SCRUM HALF")

Kai Tak, aided by five Club players but playing one short throughout, won an evenly contested Rugby match against Club "A" yesterday at the Valley by four tries (12 points) to a try (3 points).

Club's attack was very mediocre, Wilson, the only one to make ground, being repeatedly grassed by Nelson, who played a grand game in defence. Tresidder's service from the scrum was very indifferent and Butcher was given few passes that he did not have to risk knocking-on. At forward Stoker hooked moderately well and played well in the loose, especially in the line-outs. Stout and Leigh, who played for R.A.M.C. on Tuesday, were also effective, but the best forward on the field was Redman, who was always up with the play and doing a sound job of work.

Waddington, unlike Rutherford, was very fast at full-back, possessing a safe pair of hands and being accurate in his touch-finding despite lack of distance. His main fault was the fact that he invariably ran straight for touch and then kicked, thus gaining at the most only two yards with his kick, while at no time, though given the opportunity, did he ever consider setting his threequarter line in motion.

Nelson ran hard when in possession and tackled splendidly, while Lewis twice showed a clean pair of heels to Van Leeuwen. Bedell was fast off the mark and, receiving an excellent service from Henderson, lost no time in sending his threequarters away. At forward B. Hynes, Needham and Gale were most impressive.

THE SCORING

As the result of good forward play by Redman, Godfrey went over wide of the posts to give Club a 3-0 lead, Stout failing with the kick. Kai Tak were not long in arrears, however, Lewis, following up a punt ahead by Henderson, kicking ahead and beating Rutherford to the touch down. Henderson failed to convert. Just before the interval Lewis picked up in the loose and scored an easy try after a 35-yard run, but Henderson failed to improve on it from an easy position which he made more difficult by taking the kick from the 25-yard line.

Crossing over 6-3 in the lead, Kai Tak went further ahead when Nelson broke through in the corner, Henderson again failing with the kick. Henderson then crossed the Club line wide of the posts, but in attempting to secure a touch down in a more favourable position was tackled by Godfrey and dropped the ball. Kai Tak, however, scored almost immediately after when, following a passing bout in which not a yard was gained until the ball reached Nelson, Fowler touched down in the corner for Henderson to (Continued on Page 18)

C.C.C. TEAMS

The following have been selected to represent Craigengower Cricket Club in League matches against Kowloon C.C. on Saturday, at 2.00 p.m.:
1st XI at K.C.C.—E. Zimmermann (Capt.), P. J. Billimoria, A. J. Hales, K. E. Small, A. T. Lee, E. A. Lee, H. P. Lee, W. Hong Shing, G. Souza, G. Winch and F. R. Zimmermann.

Scorer—H. W. Randall. Umpire—G. Ladd.
2nd XI at Home—B. E. Franco (Capt.), N. Broadbridge, A. H. Small, A. B. Hamman, A. King, C. W. Lam, J. W. Leonard, F. Lee, A. M. Omer, W. K. Way and J. L. Youngsaye.
3rd XI at Home—W. B. Broadbridge.

REDMAN & NELSON IN GOOD FORM

(Continued from Page 17)

fall with his kick.

Dr. J. A. R. Selby refereed, and the teams were:

Club "A"—Rutherford; Godfrey, Van Leeuwen, Lavalie and P. Wilson; Butcher and Tresidder; Thornhill, Stoker, King, Benn, Stout, Redman, Roscoe and Leigh.

Kai Tak—Waddington; Fowler, Nelson, Stewart and Lewis; Bedell and Henderson; Smith, B. Hynes, Stockholm, Needham, Wakefield, Ford and Gale.

KNOTTY FORWARD PROBLEM

Six of the 18 invited to make the

trip to Shanghai have been forced to decline, due to business reasons. They are Burford and Castleton, the two hookers, Kennedy, Richardson and Deane, back row forwards, and Bompas, second row forward.

Invitations had previously been issued to Wanklyn and Heasman, front row forwards, and I understand Salter, hooker, will also be invited to go north.

Assuming these three are able to go and the other 12 are available there is the team, but with no reserves and an extra threequarter—Hutchison.

I understand Redman will be in Shanghai during the visit and he is probably the only man available who could fill the remaining position in the

back row—Alec Taylor and Godfrey being the other two — with credit, though Walkden may give up his place in the front row to Wanklyn and play in the back row as he did in the Triangular Tournament, when Taylor was on the injured list.

Two other forwards who come to mind for the second row are B. Hynes, who has played consistently well this season, and Stout, who played against Shanghai last February at the Valley.

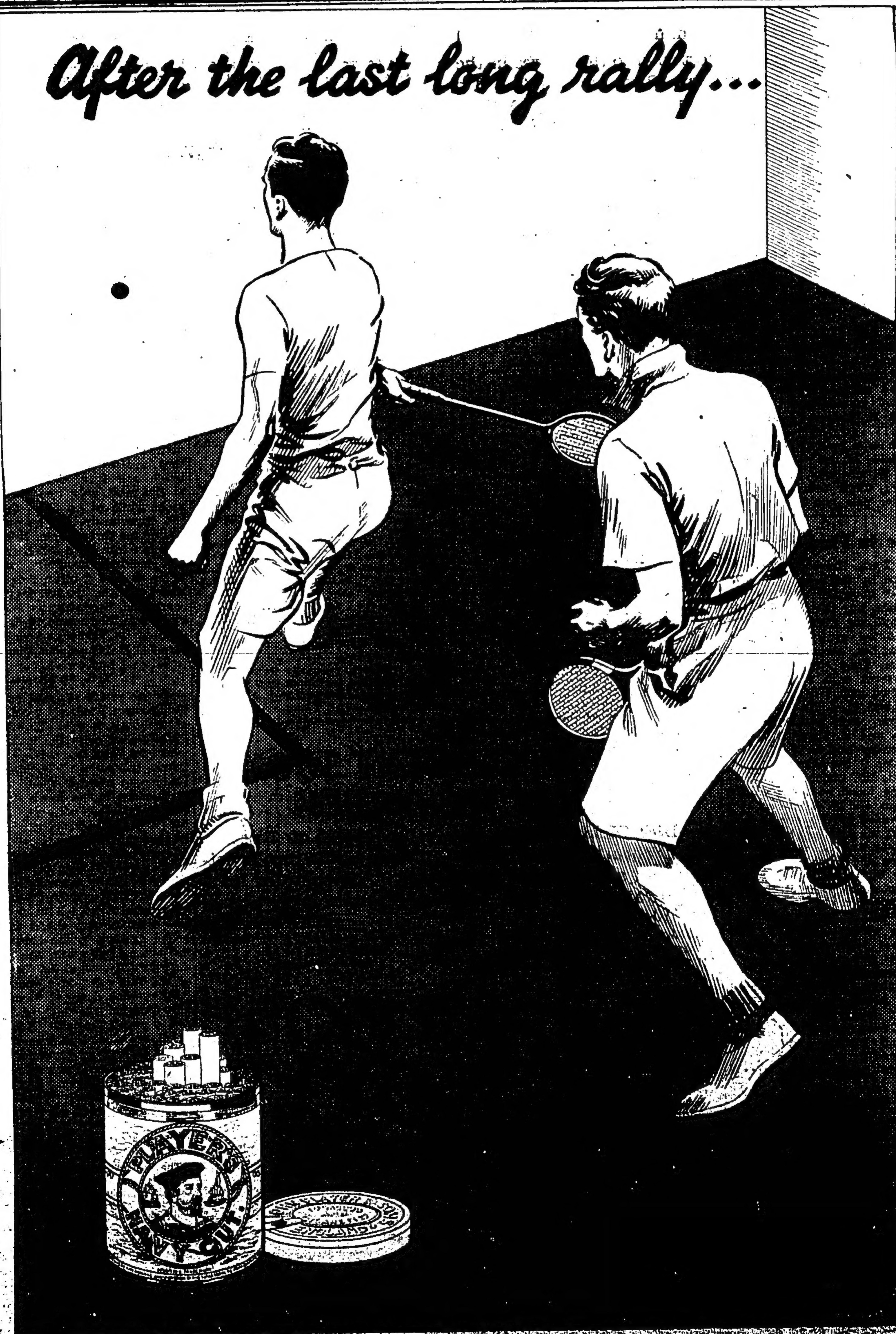
Assuming all are available, the following appears to be the likely Hong Kong line-up: Henderson; Stewart, Bidwell, Charter and Bosanquet; Cessford and Thomson; Walkden (capt.), Salter, Heasman; Needham, Wanklyn; Godfrey, Taylor and Redman.

POLICE MAKE CHANGES

Police team to meet Club "A" on Saturday is as follows: Taylor; Reynolds, Wilson, Fay and Jackson; Leslie and Morrison; Wheeler, Searle, Cullinan; Innis, Luscombe; Wright-Nooth, Dempsey and Riddell.

Wall is on the injured list still and Taylor is consequently at full-back, allowing Jackson to return to the threequarter line from the pack. Morrison is playing at scrum-half—Police have no other scrum-half than Luscombe—and Luscombe will be soon in the second row of the pack, Cullinan going into the front row. Wright-Nooth, a newcomer who has played County Rugger, has displaced Jenner as wing-forward.

After the last long rally...



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Cawnpore	Kuching	Tientsin
Cebu	Madras	Tongkah
Colombo	Manila	(Bhuket)
Delhi	Medan	Tsingtao
Haiphong	New York	Yokohama
Hamburg	Peiping	
	(Peking)	

FOREIGN EXCHANGE and General Banking Business transacted.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened and FIXED DEPOSITS received for One Year or shorter periods in Local or Other Currencies at rates which will be quoted on application.

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS also opened in Local Currency and Sterling with interest allowed at rates obtainable on application.

The Bank's Head Office in London undertakes Executor and Trustee business, and claims recovery of British Income Tax overpaid, on terms which may be ascertained at any of the Agencies and Branches.

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Authorised Capital \$10,000,000
LONDON BANKERS:—
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Foreign Exchange and every description of banking business transacted. Current Accounts and Savings Accounts opened. Fixed Deposits received at rates which will be quoted on application.

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PUBLIC AUCTION

The Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction on Friday, the 19th. January, 1940 commencing at 2.30 p.m. at their Sales Room, No. 35 Hankow Road, Kowloon.

A Quantity of VALUABLE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE

comprising:—

Teakwood Bed Room, Dining Room and Drawing Furniture, Cutlery, Brass, E. P., Glass and Porcelain Ware, Gramophones and Records, Curios, Camphorwood & Wardrobe Trunks, Mirrors, Ornaments, Electric Table Lamps & Heaters, Pictures, Cooking Utensils, etc., etc.

also

A Quantity of Blackwood Furniture and

1 Radio Set
1 Radio Gram
1 Typewriter "Underwood"
1 Typewriter "Woodstock"
1 Typewriter "Göröna" (portable)
1 Cine Kodak Projector 16 mm with Resistance & Accessories
1 Canteen Set and Cabinet
1 Portable Typewriter "Bijou" (new)
1 Sextant
1 Camera "Agfa"

On View from Thursday, the 18th. January, 1940.

Terms: Cash on Delivery.
LAMBERT BROS.
Auctioneers.
Hong Kong, 18th. January, 1940.

HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION

Authorised Capital \$50,000,000
Issued and Fully Paid-up \$30,000,000
Reserve Funds:—
Sterling £ 2,500,000
Hong Kong Currency Reserve \$10,000,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors \$30,000,000

HEAD OFFICE: HONG KONG.**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

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H. V. Wilkinson, Esq.,
Deputy Chairman.

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Calcutta	Kowloon	Shanghai
Canton	Kuala Lumpur	Singapore
Cebu	London	Sourabaya
Colombo	Lyons	Sungai Patani
Dairen	Malacca	Swatow
Foochow	Manila	Tientsin
Haiphong	Muar (Johore)	Tokyo
Hankow	Mukden	Tsingtao
Harbin	New York	Yokohama
	Peiping	

Current Accounts opened in Local Currency and Fixed Deposits received for one year or shorter periods in Local and other currencies on terms which will be quoted on application.

ALSO up to date SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES in various sizes TO LET.
Hong Kong, 25th February, 1939.

HONG KONG SAVINGS BANK

The Business of the above Bank is conducted by the HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION. Rules may be obtained on application.

FOR THE HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.
V. M. GRAYBURN,
Chief Manager

Hong Kong, 1st March, 1937.

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Authorised Capital \$10,000,000.00
Paid-up Capital 5,598,000.00
Reserve and Undivided Profits 2,393,932.00

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10, Des Voeux Road, Central.

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Batavia	Melbourne	Bamang
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Haiphong	Paris	Sourabaya
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Honolulu	Penang	Sydney
Kobe	Rangoon	Tientsin
Kowloon	Saigon	Vancouver
London	San Francisco	

Every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted. Loans granted on approved securities.

Current Accounts opened in Local Currency and Fixed Deposits received for one year or shorter periods in Local and Foreign Currencies on terms which will be quoted on application.

Safe Deposit Boxes To Let.
KAN TONG PO,
Chief Manager

PUBLIC AUCTION

The Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction on Saturday, the 20th. January, 1940 commencing at 11 a.m.

at Godown No. 15 of The China Provident Loan & Mortgage Co., Ltd., Kennedy Town

for account of the concerned

13 Bales Cotton Yarn "Blue Phoenix" 20/1

6 Bales Cotton Yarn "Peach" 20/1 (all more or less damaged by water)

Terms: Cash on delivery

LAMBERT BROS.,

Auctioneers.

Hong Kong, 18th. January, 1940.

FOR SALE

HONG KONG DOLLAR DIRECTORY
1940 EDITION. On sale at all bookshops and at the Offices of the Publishers, 3A Wyndham Street.

GERMANY RUNS INTO OBSTACLES

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

Berne, To-day.

The "Neue Zuercher Zeitung" announces that Germany has decided temporarily to interrupt railway traffic between Rumania and the Reich across Russian Poland.

The step follows difficulties raised by the Russians in fulfilling the traffic programme.

The Russians are not willing to allow Russian carriages to be loaded to maximum capacity and are not willing to lend Russian locomotives.

Hence Germany has decided that traffic from Rumania will go across Hungary instead of Russian Poland.—Havas.

BUTTED IN ON ARMY WIRING ACTIVITY

Sentence of one month's hard labour was imposed on Wong Tung, 26, by Mr. H. G. Sheldon, K.C., this morning, for the theft of nine iron stakes from the hillside above the junction of Bowen Road and Stubbs Road.

The stakes were left there by the Military Authorities for barbed wire entanglements.

The Rev. Mr. Ward, of Chatham Apartments, has reported the theft of a pocket watch valued at \$101 from his room at about 3 p.m. yesterday.

U.S. ARMY OF 223,000

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

Washington, To-day.

The Secretary for War, Mr. Harry Woodring, announced yesterday that 92,000 men had enlisted in the U.S. Army since July 1 1939, and on January 15 this year the total effectives were, 223,000.

This, he added, was only 3,000 short of the total asked by President Roosevelt last Spring.—Havas.

BELGIAN STEAMER SUNK BY MINE

London, To-day.

The Belgian steamer, Josephine Charlotte, of 3,422 tons, struck a mine yesterday afternoon and sank. Her captain and crew have been rescued.—Reuter.

S.P.C. COLLECTION BOXES MISSING

Seventy-five collection boxes, are reported to be missing from the Old City Hall. They are the property of the Society for the Protection of Children.

Mrs. Hodge, of Kennedy Road Military quarters, has reported the loss of a gold bangle in Kowloon yesterday.

Harold Brown, of No. 15, La Salle Road, has reported the theft of his bicycle from outside No. 47, Cox's Road yesterday.

A Kowloon Cricket Club Dance will be held on Wednesday, 7th February, 1940 (Chinese New Year Eve), from 8.30 p.m. till 2.30 a.m. The Dance Band of 2nd Bn. The Royal Scots will supply the music.

POLAROID DAY GLASSES

This new scientific light control stops reflected glare and protects your eyes as no other sun glass can protect them. They give the view without the glare.

Price \$16.00 per pair complete with case.

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Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, accompanied by Generals Li Chai-sum, Pai Chung-hsi, and Chen Cheng, personally inspected the fronts in the Nanning region a few days ago, according to the "Phenomenon," local evening vernacular, this afternoon. The journal adds that plans were mapped out for the defence of Kwangsi.

London, To-day.

Extension of the navicert system, recently introduced, enables ships in certain circumstances to pass without detention or examination.

The new system is called "ship's navicert," and covers cases where the whole cargo of a vessel is granted a navicert before sailing.

The procedure is for the shipmaster to present the ship's navicert to the local British consul, who telegraphs the particulars to London, and the contraband authorities allow the ship to pass freely.—Reuter.

Bucharest, To-day.

The Czernauti-Lwow-Cracow railway, by which the Germans hoped to import large quantities of Rumanian produce following its reopening in December, has again ceased to function.

The Germans accuse the Russians of making difficulties for the transit of trains across Soviet-occupied Poland, while the Russians say the Germans and Rumanians failed to fulfil the terms of the agreement under which the railway resumed working.

A German commission is now on the frontier carrying out investigations.—Reuter.

London, To-day.

As a result of efforts to find parliamentary seats for the new Ministers, Sir Andrew Duncan and Sir John Reith, it is expected that Sir Alan Anderson will resign the City of London and Sir Charles Barrie, Southampton.

Neither Labour nor Liberals would oppose the new Ministers.—Reuter.

Stockholm, To-day.

The special correspondent of the "Tidningen" with the northern Finnish forces says it is reliably reported from the Salla front that the Russian forces which have been trying to drive westward across Finland's waist are in general retreat.

It is believed the Reds have withdrawn several miles.

Shanghai, To-day.

The Japanese are being attacked on "their own doorstep," as it were, close to Shanghai.

Kowan, on the Yangtse, in Kiangsu province, was being shelled by the Japanese yesterday afternoon, according to private reliable cables reaching here.

The reports emphasise that the capture of the city from the Japanese is probable.

Taichow city, the reports add, was bombed by the Japanese on Monday and Thursday, suggesting that it had been captured by the Chinese.

Kowan is a Yangtse port between Chinkiang and Kiangying.—Our Own Correspondent.

Washington, To-day.

According to reliable reports, proposals by Britain and France for tripling their present orders for American warplanes were discussed yesterday by President Roosevelt, Mr. Henry Morgenthau (Secretary of Treasury) and army and navy officials.

Britain and France are said to have notified the United States that they contemplate ordering for speedy delivery upwards of 8,000 planes, and even more engines.—Reuter.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

Shanghai, To-day.

Though not confirmed, it is believed likely that the United States Ambassador, Mr. Nelson T. Johnson, is leaving for the upper Yangtse on board the U.S.S. Luzon on Monday on an inspection tour.

Mr. Johnson arrived in Shanghai from Chungking yesterday.—Our Own Correspondent.

Stockholm, To-day.

Mr. Guenther, the Foreign Minister, declared during the budget debate yesterday that the whole Swedish people was unanimous in its desire to help the Finns.

This was also an essential principle of the Government's policy but the Government must avoid anything that might be considered un-neutral, and therefore it was impossible to do all they might wish to aid Finland.—Reuter.

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